FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

22 JUNE 1982

Israeli Invasion of Lebanon

Military Situation -- Israeli artillery shelled west and south Beirut throughout 21 June causing extensive damage and hitting a number of targets including the street in front of the Soviet Embassy and the Acre hospital, according to Beirut radio reports. A Beirut medical source cited by Voice of Lebanon radio estimated that 20 people were killed and 75 wounded in the bombardment. Jerusalem radio noted a UPI report that the shelling was the heaviest since the cease-fire took effect. In an IDF radio interview, an Israeli artillery officer said there has been a steep decline in the intensity of "terrorist" artillery fire. The IDF spokesman confirmed that four Syrian tanks were destroyed in exchanges of fire east of Beirut, according to the radio. Statements broadcast by the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio claimed that Palestinian-Lebanese joint forces and Syrian forces confronted and checked an Israeli armored attack in the Ru'aysat an-Nu'man area, east of Beirut. The IDF exchanged artillery fire with Syrian forces in 'Alayh, according to the Voice of Lebanon.

Early on 22 June, Israeli forces reached Bkhishtay in a move to outflank and cut off their opponents in 'Alayh and Bhamdun, the Voice of Lebanon said, and Israeli armored columns moved toward Al-Mansuriyah in the Bhamdun area. The IDF spokesman announced that the IDF returned Syrian artillery fire from the Hammana area, north of the Beirut-Damascus road, and that Israeli planes attacked the sources of fire, IDF radio reported on 22 June. Beirut radio confirmed the renewed Israeli-Syrian clashes in the Lebanese mountains.

Soviet Embassy -- A high-ranking source in Jerusalem denied that IDF fire had hit the Soviet Embassy on 21 June, asserting that any hit on the embassy was by "terrorists' fire," Jerusalem radio reported. Citing eyewitnesses, AFP reported that a shell had fallen inside the embassy; IDF radio cited a UPI report that two diplomats were slightly wounded when a shell landed in the embassy garden. Israel's IDF radio reported that the Soviet Union had earlier transmitted a message to Prime Minister Menahem Begin warning Israel that responsibility for any harm to the Beirut embassy would "rest with the one commiting the harm."

PLO Proposals, Contacts -- In a statement to the French newspaper LE MONDE reported by Voice of Lebanon radio, PLO Executive Committee member Salah Khalaf proposed "disarmament in west Beirut" and the gathering together of the PLO fighters in the four Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut's southern suburb while also calling for Israel's withdrawal 10 km from Beirut, the opening of the Damascus road and the deployment of the Lebanese forces in the western part of Beirut, "around the camps and not inside them." Noting that this proposal is the "bottom line in our policy," he warned that "if our Lebanese friends and enemies consider that this formula, which is our last concession, is not acceptable, we will propose that we fortify ourselves in our camps to wage the final battle." Khalaf went on to criticize Syria for being "scared" while also expressing regret at the negative stand adopted by the Soviet Union.

Earlier, Beirut radio reported that National Salvation Council members Nabih Birri and Walid Junblatt met with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to reach an understanding on the way gunmen and weapons should be withdrawn and the Lebanese Army deployed in Beirut, Beirut radio reported. According to sources cited by the radio, the PLO supports the army's deployment in the capital but would first prefer an Israeli withdrawal from some positions or at least an Israeli commitment to a timetable for withdrawal before anything else is discussed. According to another radio report, a PLO delegation headed by 'Arafat met with Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, Birri and Junblatt during which political and military developments were discussed.

Reagan-Begin Meeting -- Jerusalem television, quoting a "senior White House source," reported that the talks between President Reagan and Prime Minister Begin resulted in agreement on "many points." The report noted that Israel and the United States agree on the need to "strengthen Lebanon" and the need to create a multinational force to police a buffer zone between Lebanon and Israel. According to the report, the White House source said President Reagan was "far less enthusiastic" about sending troops to Lebanon to take part in a multinational force. Both leaders, the source noted, agreed on the need for all forces, "including Syria and the PLO," to withdraw from Lebanon. The source reported one point of friction during the talks which occurred when President Reagan reported to the Israeli prime minister on his talks with Arab leaders.

A later television report noted the U.S. believes the IDF should not withdraw until three "demands" are met: Lebanon is "strengthened", all foreign forces withdraw and a multinational force is established to defend a buffer zone between Lebanon and Israel.

Sharon, Ben-Elisar Remarks -- The IDF will stand firmly in Lebanon until a political arrangement is achieved, Israeli Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon said in a BBC television interview. If no arrangements are made, "we will stay," he added. Meanwhile, the chairman of the Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee, Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, said in a Jerusalem radio interview that Israel has no choice but to knock out what is left of the PLO in west Beirut.

Syrian Contacts, Cabinet Meeting -- PDRY leader 'Ali Nasir Muhammad paid a brief visit to Damascus and discussed the Lebanese situation with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Aden radio reported. The two leaders evaluated the threat posed by the Israeli invasion and stressed the necessity of linking all Arab material, human, political and military potential in defense of the Palestinian Revolution. Al-Asad reaffirmed during the meeting that Syria will continue to shoulder its national duty of defending Lebanon and the Palestinian Revolution, SANA reported.

The "U.S.-Israeli" direct military intervention in Lebanon is placing the region on the verge of an all-out war, according to a Syrian Cabinet assessment reported by Damascus television. During a meeting with Prime Minister 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm, the Cabinet discussed the current situation in Lebanon and conducted a detailed assessment of the general situation including U.S. envoy Philip Habib's talks in Damascus, Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev's letter to Al-Asad and the outcome of visits by Soviet diplomatic and military officials.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Further on Khomeyni Speech -- In his 21 June speech to clergymen, broadcast by Tehran radio, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni said that if Iran defeats Iraq, "Iraq will be annexed to Iran," that is, the Iraqi people will overthrow their rulers and link themsleves with the Iranian nation. If Iran and Iraq can merge, he added, all the small nations of the region will join them. Asserting that Iranian forces should "go to Lebanon by defeating Iraq," Khomeyni said the Iraqis should not be allowed to rest, rally their resources and inflict a surprise attack. According to the radio's headline report of the speech, Khomeyni also stressed that if Iraq refuses to pay reparations to Iran, "we shall continue the war and will make you pay."

Military Situation -- An Iraqi military communique carried by INA said Iraqi forces continued to abide by the cease-fire but were forced to reply to Iranian artillery bombardment of Basra.

Iran

Islamic revolution guards killed 17 top members of the Mojahedin-e Khalq and arrested another 14 during operations in Tehran, Tehran radio reported. The radio also reported that eight more members of the organization were killed during street clashes with the guards.

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PLO REJECTS IDEA OF 'GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE'

JN211026 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1000 GMT 21 Jun 82

[Text] Authoritative Palestinian sources have said that the PLO at present rejects the idea of forming a government-in-exile. Egyptian President Husni Mubarak yesterday renewed former Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat's proposal on the formation of a Palestinian government-in-exile based in Cairo.

RADIO MONTE CARLO AIRS QADDUMI INTERVIEW 19 JUNE

JN192133 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2045 GMT 19 Jun 82

[From the "Panorama" program]

[Text] Faruq Qaddumi, PLO Political Department head, has granted an interview to our radio in which he answered questions put forth by our correspondent Nabil Darwish. Qaddumi expressed his satisfaction with the outcome of his talks with the French prime minister and foreign minister. He praised the French stance toward the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples and Paris' condemnation of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

Qaddumi said French officials have shown a full understanding of the issues pertaining to the visit to France by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. He said time is not ripe for making the visit due to the Lebanese crisis, adding that the visit might take place soon.

Qaddumi explained the resistance and the Palestinian people, as well as the Lebanese people, will not lay down their arms in the face of the Israeli invasion. He criticized Arab silence and shortcoming. He stressed the importance of Syria's role concerning the resistance, and the USSR's support for the Palestinian Revolution.

[Begin recording] [Question] Undoubtedly, the crisis currently experienced by the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples prompted you to review a number of concepts. What are your concepts regarding the future of the current dispute?

[Answer] The barbaric Israeli military onslaught and the emergence of a new Hitler, Sharon, can, under no circumstances, affect the essence of the struggle in the Middle East, nor can it belittle our capabilities or effectiveness. Although we have lost a little due to the tremendous sacrifices offered by our people and the heroes who were martyred in the battles of honor, in the near future the Palestinian people will be capable of developing their work, reorganizing their ranks and forging ahead as usual for the sake of liberating their homeland. There is no doubt that our military, political and diplomatic actions complement each other for the sake of victory and achieving our objectives designated by our National Congress -- setting up of a Palestinian state, the right to return to our homeland and the right to self-determination.

[Question] What is your opinion about a political solution with the Americans and the U.S. recognition of the PLO in return for transforming the PLO into a political organization?

[Answer] Everyone should understand we will never accept any conditions imposed on us. Our revolution is an armed one. We know the gun is the policy maker, and we will never lay it down for the sake of carrying out any political and diplomatic action. We will fight on all fronts -- our people inside the occupied territories, through their stubborn resistance, are unequivocable evidence that this revolution will continue. [end recording]

FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU INTERVIEWS YASIR 'ARAFAT

DW211009 Frankfurt FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU in German 19 Jun 82 p 2

[Interview with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat and PLO spokesman Abu Ismail by correspondent Karin Storcha-Helbig in Beirut -- individual respondents not identified -- date not given]

[Text] [Question] Have the Israelis destroyed the PLO?

[Answer] The Israelis have hit civilians, destroyed Lebanese land and expelled 10-15 percent of the people. They have destroyed refugee camps, villages and cities in the south. They have hurt the PLO much less than they believe. They have not even touched our infrastructure. They have captured military positions and weapons, but they have neither caught nor killed any of our military commanders except for the one in Beaufort Castle. More than two-thirds of our army is intact.

Our infrastructure -- that is, the leadership, the social and civilian organizations, hospitals and even financial affairs (we still pay wages) -- everything works. Anyway, a great number of PLO members work outside Lebanon, some of them in Damascus.

[Question] Do you feel encircled in Beirut?

[Answer] We are encircled.

[Question] How long can you hold out?

[Answer] That is hard to say. For political reasons this situation cannot last forever. The Israelis will either accept less than they were striving for originally, or they will fight for Beirut. That would cost thousands of lives. Our men are motivated and unafraid. Had there been no air attacks, we would have already beaten the Israelis. We do not want this fight, but if it is forced on us we will accept it.

[Question] With whom are you prepared to negotiate?

[Answer] With the Lebanese Government.

[Question] Have you negotiated with the Americans?

[Answer] No.

[Question] Would you like to?

[Answer] You are implying the Americans and not the Israelis, are attacking here, and I agree with that.

[Question] Are the Soviets exerting sufficient pressure?

[Answer] They could do more.

[Question] Are you dissatisfied with Arab solidarity?

[Answer] I expected what happened.

'ARAFAT ON ISRAELI FORCES: 'LET THEM COME'

AU211950 Rome ANSA in English 1915 GMT 21 Jun 82

[Text] Rome, 21 June -- (ANSA) -- Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) leader Yasir 'Arafat challenged the Israeli troops closing in on his "fedayeen" forces in the western quarter of Beirut to begin their attack in an interview conducted with him in his bunker and published here today in the Roman daily PAESE SERA.

"Let them come to take our arms" 'Arafat said, "They will have to move over our dead bodies.

"They know that it will be a hard battle" he continued, "They imagined that it would be a picnic, but our fedayeen, sixteen days after the invasion, are still fighting in the south."

'Arafat, who is also the leader of the major Palestinian guerrilla forces, Al Fatah, met the Italian interviewer in military gear and, according to the reporter, appeared "self assured." He affirmed that he was "certain" of an Israeli attack. "They have encircled the city from the sea and from the land. There are already two divisions around west Beirut and eight more divisions have entered Lebanon.

"Let them come" 'Arafat declared, "We are ready to receive them, and we've prepared a welcome."

According to the PLO leader, the Palestinians are ready to negotiate but from a position of strength and, in any case, they will never accept disarmament. 'Arafat explained that the battle for Beirut will not be a question of time "but of intensity and quality.

"We are expecting anything, naval, air and artillery bombardments. But the battle will not be limited to west Beirut. We will fight anywhere and defend ourselves well."

VOP COMMENTARY CRITICIZES BASHIR AL-JUMAYYIL

NC211334 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Jun 82

[Station commentary]

[Text] In this area there are four states and five peoples. The Palestinian people are the odd, superfluous people, according to Bashir al-Jumayyil. If we envy the commander of the so-called Lebanese forces for his exceptional ability in expressing his racism and fascism, we do not envy him for his present game of standing on tiptoe and confronting a subject a great deal larger than he: the liquidation of the Palestinian people, their inalienable national right to return to their homeland, decide their destiny, and set up their independent state in the homeland.

Bashir al-Jumayyil knows more than most that the presence of the Palestinian people in Lebanon and in any other Arab territory is the inescapable result of the big conspiracy implemented against the Palestinian people and their homeland -- Palestine. The continued presence of the Palestinian people in any Arab territory, including Lebanon, is dependent upon the Palestinian people's attaining their national rights in Palestine. Any other alternative is bound to fail.

True loyalty to the sovereignty of any Arab state will be achieved on the initiative of the Palestinian people -- not by being their enemy and introducing the concept of liquidating them, in line with the notion that they are the odd people. Such concepts failed to end the inescapable Palestinian existence during the past -- nor did they succeed in sparing any Arab country from the danger of the Zionist violation of its territories and sovereignty.

True loyalty to sovereignty in the context of any responsible and serious concept is embodied by helping the Palestinians to attain their rights and placing all Arab capabilities at all levels at the service of the legitimate Palestinian struggle, whose goals cannot be disputed or undermined by all the peoples of the area, and their right to life and dignified national independence.

The logic that says the Palestinian people are odd and superfluous, which is adopted by Bashir al-Jumayyil to justify and explain the Zionist crimes against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples, exceeds all the rules of morality. Moreover, it is a Zionist, racist announcement that even the Zionist killers could not declare publicly, in spite of the fact that they are launching the dirtiest and most hideous war against the Palestinian existence, whether in Palestine, Lebanon or anywhere else in the world.

The conviction that Bashir al-Jumayyil is glad to have -- the illusion that Palestine has been erased from the map and no longer exists -- reflects sick ambitions more than it defines present truths. Palestine does exist, and with its people, its revolution, and the solidarity of most of the world's states, it cannot be erased from the map.

When Bashir al-Jumayyil and others view Palestine from the viewpoint of sick Zionist dreams, they do not thereby rescue Lebanon as he claims. Rather, he puts Lebanon itself in the center of the danger and in the position of surrendering to Zionist sovereignty over it and its people. This is the most dangerous thing surrounding Lebanon and its destiny.

We believe that Bashir al-Jumayyil is, to a considerable extent, responsible for that. He invented the concept of the alliance with the devil against the Palestinians. He is responsible for the arrival of the devil in Lebanon in an attempt to render this country a Zionist district managed by an intelligence officer from Tel Aviv. We, from the position of our direct responsibility toward our people, issue, and destiny, fight with all our power to prove to the conspirators that we are not odd and superfluous and that our entire Arab nation is in dire need of people like us who are ready to shed their blood in defense of every inch of Arab territory.

BRIEFS

IDB-ALGERIA AGREEMENT -- An agreement was signed today in Jidda between the Islamic Development Band [IDB] and Algeria. According to the agreement, the bank will finance Algerian imports worth $15 million. [Riyadh Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 21 Jun 82 GF]

GULF AFFAIRS

SPA SUMS UP GCC FINANCE MINISTERS MEETING

LD202000 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1620 GMT 20 Jun 82

[Text] Riyadh, 20 Jun (SPA) -- Bahraini Finance Minister Ibrahim 'Abd al-Karim told SPA before his departure that at their meeting the finance ministers of the six council states have approved the basic statute of the Gulf Investment Organization and that this will be submitted for final endorsement to the Supreme Council when it meets in Bahrain in November.

The Bahraini minister said the capital of the organization will be $200 billion shared by the six member states, and he explained that each state is entitled to offer 49 percent of its share to its own citizens. In conclusion, the minister said it is hoped that the organization will begin operations at the beginning of next year.

In addition, Dr 'Abdallah al-Quwayz, GCC assistant secretary general for economic affairs, said the meetings of the GCC finance ministers have resulted in a number of resolutions on the implementation of the comprehensive economic agreement. In a statement to SPA he said it has been decided to abolish customs duty on national products of the council's states as of 1 December. He also said the ministers reviewed some studies prepared by the directors of customs, that they decided to set up a specialist committee of customs directors of the council's states, and that this committee will hold periodic meetings to discuss customs issues and propose a unified customs tariff to be applied to products of the outside world.

It has also been decided to permit the nations of the area to pursue economic activity in any of the council's states in agriculture, industry, business and vocational crafts. Each state has the right to (?allow) its nationals to have a 25-percent share in the ownership of projects.

The ministers also approved regulations for transit among the council's states. The regulations will come into force as of 1 December and will permit the means of national transportation -- both passenger and goods -- to travel between member states with ordinary vehicle identity permits without resorting to any further measures.

Dr 'Abdallah al-Quwayz announced that the next meeting of the GCC finance ministers will be held in Bahrain on 7 December 1982.

AL-QABAS: FOREIGN MINISTERS NOT TO MEET SOON

GF191700 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 18 Jun 82 pp 1, 17

[Excerpt] Very reliable political sources expect the Arab foreign ministers meeting will not be held in the near future.

These sources have told AL-QABAS that the Arab League has not received any reply from any Arab country to Kuwait's repeated call to hold an urgent Arab foreign ministers' meeting. The sources said the Foreign Ministry continued its intensified contacts with the Arab League and other Arab parties yesterday to elicit responses to Kuwait's call for this urgent meeting and to prepare for an Arab summit to discuss and confront the Zionist invasion of Lebanon.

Reliable sources have disclosed information indicating continued Syrian and Lebanese objections to the convening of such a meeting at the present time. They called on all Arabs to support their cause instead of making haphazard accusations. They described the PLO as helpless at present and as suffering from the grave repercussions of the recent barbaric Zionist invasion of Lebanon.

They pointed out that many political moves by the Palestinian command have surfaced; they run parallel to the policies of the various brances of this command. The command branch in Damascus is in line with Syrian policy, while the command in Beirut devotes its utmost attention to the confrontation of the Zionist aggression through military rather than political means. Other commands in the United Nations and Europe are trying to hold contacts with Arabs, Europe and the United States. The Palestinian command wing in the Gulf has a predilection for the convening of a meeting on the GCC level, believing that efforts by the GCC countries are the last resort to stop the movement of the situation into the abyss.

BAHRAIN

SYRIAN ENVOY DELIVERS MESSAGE, DEPARTS 21 JUNE

GF211603 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1410 GMT 21 Jun 82

[Text] Manama, 21 Jun (WAKH) -- The Amir of Bahrain, Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, has received a message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad dealing with the current Arab situation, particularly the situation in Lebanon following the Zionist invasion. The message was conveyed by Faruq ash-Shar', Syrian minister of state for foreign affairs, during his meeting with the amir here this afternoon.

During the meeting the amir reiterated his country's total support for the struggle the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples are waging in confrontation of the Zionist invasion forces. He called for unified Arab efforts to confront the plots aimed at impairing the Arab nation's security and sovereignty. The amir of Bahrain said his country will spare no effort to extend all forms of aid and assistance to the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples. It will hold consultations with its sister Arab states to reach a unified Arab stand to deal with the current situation.

The meeting was attended by Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah.

The Syrian delegation has left Manama for Doha on the third leg of its tour of the region.

KUWAIT

SYRIAN OFFICIAL ARRIVES WITH MESSAGE 21 JUNE

LD211252 Kuwait KUNA in English 1008 GMT 21 Jun 82

[Text] Kuwait, June 21 (KUNA) -- Syrian minister of state for foreign affairs, Faruq ash-Shar', arrived here Monday carrying a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah.

He was welcomed on arrival by the Minister of Health Dr. 'Abd ar-Rahman al-'Awadi and the Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Rashid ar-Rashid. The Syrian official's visit is part of his government's drive to rally Arab support to confront the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam had visited Saudi Arabia Saturday and met with its leaders who are reportedly pressing on the U.S. administration to use its influence with its Israeli ally to bring about an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon and put an end to the killing of innocent Palestinian and Lebanese civilians. Saudi Arabia announced this week that if the withdrawal did not take place and the invading Israeli troops tried to occupy Beirut, the Arab Kingdom would be the first to respond to the calls for mobilizing Arab potentials to defend rights and territorial sovereginty of the Arab nation.

Syria last night reaffirmed that it shall not withdraw its 30,000-strong deterrent force from Lebanon at an Israeli or a foreign request and said these forces would only be pulled back in accordance with an agreement with the Lebanese Government or a resolution by an Arab summit conference. But the Syrian Minister of Information Ahmad Iskandar told a press conference that these forces would be immediately withdrawn from Lebanon once they achieve their target in ending the blood letting in that Arab country. Syria had rejected an Israeli request in this respect conveyed by the commander of the Arab Deterrent Forces Brigadier Sami al-Khatib and said "The request has been forcibly dictated on the Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis whose presidential palace is besieged by Israeli tanks."

The minister did not go into details when asked if his country would go to war with Israel and said "Syria has accepted a ceasefire on condition that the Israeli troops withdraw (?from) all Lebanese territories. This condition still exists and these troops must withdraw because Syria does not accept any bargaining on this matter."

The minister said that the Israeli Government has violated an understanding reached with the U.S. presidential envoy Philip Habib which emphasized that the ceasefire should not allow the Israelis to advance further in their invasion of Lebanon. He said, however, that the Syrian troops in Beirut were not a party to the ceasefire agreement because they come under daily bombardment by the invading Israeli soldiers.

The Israeli invasion of Lebanon, the minister said, has caused a great harm to peace and stability in the region and the world and damaged the possibilities for the creation of a just and durable peace in the Middle East. Israel and the United States Government must be held responsible for repercussions of this invasion, the minister warned.

Minister Comments

LD211504 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1413 GMT 21 Jun 82

[Text] Kuwait, 21 Jun (KUNA) -- The Kuwaiti minister of state for the affairs of the Council of Ministers, 'Abd al-Aziz Husayn, today announced that the visit of the Syrian minister of state for foreign affairs, Faruq ash-Shar', to Kuwait took place with the idea of getting a clearer view of Arab conditions and to get acquainted with the views of the Syrian Arab Republic about the development of events in Lebanon.

'Abd al-Aziz Husayn was replying to a question from KUNA about the development of events in Lebanon and the visit of Ash-Shar' to Kuwait today and his meeting with the amir of Kuwait.

The minister of state went on to add: "Kuwait views conditions created by the Israeli move into Lebanon and the blatant aggression against its sovereignty and the threats to Palestinian survival with great anxiety. Moreover, it views with great anxiety the grave consequences produced by the international silence about the planned attempt to impose solutions which are not in line with the legitimate rights of the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples."

The minister went on to say that Kuwait "urges the Arab nation to comprehend its responsibilities in these critical conditions by seriously working to deter the dangers facing its survival and international prestige. Moreover, it affirms its total solidarity with the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples in everything and is bound to support them and maintain their rights in full."

STATE RELEASES 88 PALESTINIAN DETAINEES TO FIGHT

LD211750 Kuwait KUNA in English 1627 Jun 82

[Text] Kuwait, June 21 (KUNA) -- The release of 88 Palestinian detainees to go and fight along with their comrades is another practical Kuwaiti step to support the Palestinian Revolution, a Kuwait newspaper commented Monday.

The amiri pardon provided an opportunity for those Palestinian cadres to take part in the real war betwken Arabs and Zionists, AL-WATAN newspaper added. Despite what they have done in Kuwait, those men will now take part in a battle which, according to Kuwait's Defence Minister Shaykh Salim as-Sabah, "led the Zionist invaders into huge losses unprecedented in all their previous wars with the Arab nation."

The pardon came as an additional gesture to Kuwait's speedy move to provide medical aid to the Lebanese and Palestinian victims of the Israeli invasion. Furthermore, this small country (Kusait) is taking the lead role in the call for an urgent Arab summit not to count other moves which cannot be immediately disclosed, the paper said.

Kuwait is different from many others and its people are deep believers in democracy and the principle of human participation. In pardoning those who tried to disturb its security, Kuwait had displayed its respect to the role those men will undertake in the battle. It is the duty of all Arabs to provide every possible assistance to the Palestinian Revolution be it money or arms the newspaper concluded.

QATAR

SYRIAN MINISTER ARRIVES ON OFFICIAL VISIT

Meets With Amir

GF211608 Doha Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 21 Jun 82

[Text] His highness the amir, Shaykh Hamad Ibn Khalifah Al Thani, has received a message from his brother, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, dealing with the current Arab situation in general and the Lebanese situation following the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in particular.

The message was conveyed to the amir by Faruq ash-Shari', Syrian minister of state for foreign affairs, during his meeting with the amir at Ad-Dawhah Palace at 1700 today. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani and Syrian Ambassador 'Abd al-'Aziz ar-Rifa'i.

Faruq ash-Shari' arrived in Doha shortly before his meeting. He was received by Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, Ahmad Jasim al-Mulla, director of the protocol department at the Foreign Ministry, and 'Abd al-'Aziz ar-Rifa'i. The Syrian minister said Syria is trying to ensure a prompt Israeli withdrawal from all Lebanese territory. It supports any meeting to deal with the situation and to confront the Israeli aggression against Lebanon.

Makes Departure Statement

GF220930 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0540 GMT 22 Jun 82

[Text] Doha, 21 Jun (WAKH) -- Faruq ash-Shar', Syrian minister of state for foreign affairs, has affirmed the necessity of adopting a unified Arab stand to confront the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the great conspiracy being hatched against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples and of finding a practical means to foil the U.S.-Israeli plan against them.

The Syrian minister reiterated support for his country's stand on refusal to withdraw the Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF] under the Israeli occupation of Lebanon, noting that Syria is ready to respond to the legitimate Lebanese authority's demand when this authority is freed from the noose of Israeli occupation.

In a departure statement in Doha tonight, Ash-Shar' said the Syrian soldiers are still fighting alongside the Palestinian Resistance and Lebanese nationalist forces in order to thwart any imminent Israeli attempt to enter Beirut. He explained that the United Nations is the only framework for discussing the possibility of positioning multinational forces in Lebanon, expressing his opinion that the multinational force in the Sinai lacks international legitimacy because it is outside the framework of the United Nations.

Regarding Syria's consent to cease fire, the Syrian minister said this was achieved with the knowledge of the Palestinian Resistance which accepted the cease-fire after the issuance of UN Security Council Resolution 509, and pointed out that to say Syria has accepted the cease-fire and has abandoned the Palestinian Resistance comes within the framework of hostile campaigns by Israel and imperialism.

The Syrian minister said the implementation of the cease-fire is the responsibility of the legitimate Lebanese authority and the Lebanese national forces, describing the cease-fire as being fragile and pointing out that the Israeli enemy will be held responsible for any breach of the cease-fire. The Syrian official expressed hope the National Salvation Council will achieve its objectives and be able to remove the Israeli enemy forces from Lebanon, affirming that Syria does not object to any action that would lead to national unity in Lebanon and to standing up against the Israeli presence and occupation.

SAUDI ARABIA

KING FAHD CHAIRS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING

LD212222 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2128 GMT 21 Jun 82

[Excerpts] At-Ta'if, 21 Jun (SPA) -- The Council of Ministers met this evening under the chairmanship of His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

Information Minister Dr Muhammad Abdu Yamani said after the session that King Fahd opened the meeting by paying tribute to the glorious achievements during the era of the late King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. His Majesty said the period our country has witnessed since the death of King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has established, praise be to God, the authenticity of this nation and the loyalty of this people to their faith and to their leadership to which they have pledged alleiance in accordance with the ruling of God and His prophet. This period has shown clearly the security, stability, cohesion, loyalty and faithfulness we enjoy, thanks be to God.

His majesty said: We are passing through an important and critical phase as far as the Arab and Muslim nation is concerned. We shall continue to shoulder our responsibilities in accordance with our declared and well-known policy. We implore God to prevent divisions within our nation and between our brothers, and to unite us for the good of all, God willing, and to keep our region removed from all kinds of international conflict.

His majesty added: As you all know, we have been anxious to utilize our relationship with the great powers in the world in order to put an end to the open and unjust invasion of Lebanon and to the Israeli aggression on our Lebanese and Palestinian brothers. While we praise God for the response there has been, we shall continue to do our utmost in order to end this tragedy and to restore peace, security and stability to sister Lebanon and also to halt these plots which seek the annihilation of the entire Palestinian people and the violation of the rights of the Lebanese people without any justification.

The information minister added that the Council of Ministers then reviewed the political situation in Lebanon and were briefed on the latest developments of the Zionist invasion. The council also heard a report in this respect from Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal.

ISLAMIC CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION ISSUES STATEMENT

LD211522 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1150 GMT 21 Jun 82

[Text] Jidda, 21 Jun (SPA) -- The General Secretariat of the Islamic Conference Organization issued a statement today in which it described the Iraqi initiative to completely withdraw its troops from Iranian territory as a positive step which will help the Islamic peace committee continue its work in order to settle the conflict between the two sister countries, Iran and Iraq. Following is the text of the statement:

Following the Iraqi Government's declaration of its decision to withdraw completely from Iranian territory, which came after its decision to stop fighting, the secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization, Habib Chatti, held telephone conversations this morning with President Ahmed Sekou Toure, chairman of the Islamic peace committee. This initiative is considered a positive step which will help the committee to continue its work in order to settle the conflict between the two sister countries of Iran and Iraq. The committee will continue its consultation with the two sides to speed up the process of bringing closer the viewpoints between them in order to make it possible to achieve the desired solution particularly dictated by the present situation of the Islamic nation as well as the criminal intentions of Israel toward our Islamic nation.

PDRY

NEW VOLUNTEER CONTINGENT DEPARTS FOR LEBANON

LD201950 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Jun 82

[Excerpt] A new contingent of volunteers from the PDRY left this morning for Lebanon to fight on the side of the Palestinian Resistance and Lebanese Nationalist Movement against the Zionist invasion of Lebanon.

Brig Gen Salih Muslih Qasim, YSP Central Committee member and minister of defense, saluted in a speech he made to the new contingent the spirit of courage and daring of the Yemeni volunteers reflecting the noble character of our Yemeni people in making sacrifices for their love of freedom.

He praised the volunteers' willingness to fight alongside the Palestinian and Lebanese people. He said: When you volunteer to fight in Lebanon you are expressing the YSP's conviction, the principled basis of the Yemeni revolutionary movement and the bravery of the Yemeni fighters who have already born arms against British colonialism, forcing it out of our country and achieving its independence.

The brother minister of defense asked the volunteers to convey the greetings of Yemeni militants and people to the Palestinian and Lebanese fighters and the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples and to assure them that our revolution will always be on their side.

YAR

CHIEF OF STAFF LEAVES FOR DAMASCUS 21 JUNE

GF211800 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Jun 82

[Text] Chief of Staff Lt Col 'Abdallah Bashiri left today for Damascus on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. He will convey a message from Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, to his Brother President Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic.

In a predeparture statement to SABA', Lieutenant Colonel Bashiri said: Under the critical circumstances our Arab nation is experiencing, and out of concern for coordination and consultation among the brothers, I leave today for fraternal Syria with a message from Brother President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to his brother Hagiz al-Asad. It deals with the current situation in the Arab region and means of bolstering Arab solidarity and unification of the common stands and goals that (?will ensure) Arab rights [word indistinct] the tyrannical Zionist aggression. [passage indistinct]

SEVENTH VOLUNTEER GROUP LEAVES FOR LEBANON

GF211206 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Jun 82

[Excerpt] The seventh group of Yemeni volunteers left today in order to participate with their brothers the Palestinians and Lebanese in repulsing the treacherous and perfidious Zionist invasion of Lebanese territory. They were seen off at San'a' International Airport by YAR Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani.

MUBARAK RENEWS INVITATION TO PALESTINIANS

JN211311 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Jun 82

[Text] President Husni Mubarak this morning met with the members of the National Democratic Party's parliamentary group in the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council who represent the Governorates of Port Said, Suez, Ismailia, Ash-Sharqiyah, Ad-Daqahliyah, Al-Jizah, Al-Fayyum, Bani Suwayf, Al-Minya, Wadi al-Jadid, Marsa Matruh, Red Sea, Southern Sinai and Northern Sinai. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din, Dr Mustafa Khalil and the speakers of the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council.

During this meeting, the president explained the political situation, the situation in Lebanon and domestic issues. Asked about reaction to his statement yesterday on the relationship between Egypt and the United States, the president said what he stated yesterday was previously stressed to the United States.

On Egyptian aid to Lebanon, the president said it is in the form of medical requirements and foodstuffs and the Red Cross will take them to Lebanon. We will meet all Lebanon's requirements, he said.

Asked if there are proposals on Yasir 'Arafat and his aides coming to Cairo, the president said he was not received any proposals on this matter and that he only heard this from the radios. The president added: We welcome them in Cairo to form a provisional Palestinian government functioning politically.

Asked if there have been contacts with any quarter, such as the United States, on this matter, the president replied in the negative and said there have been no contacts on this matter.

GHALI VIEWS PALESTINIAN GOVERNMENT IN CAIRO

JN212024 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 21 Jun 82

[Text] Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has stated that Egypt is continuing its contacts to avert further deterioration in the situation in Lebanon.

Dr Butrus Ghali today met with the U.S. ambassador in Cairo and informed him of the necessity to end the Israeli aggression against Lebanon in order to achieve security and stability in the region.

Ghali also stated that it was up to the Palestinians to set up a provisional government in Cairo if they so desire, provided they understand that the issue in this case is limited to political struggle and does not extend to any military activity.

PALESTINIAN BODY CALLS FOR PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT

JN220827 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0800 GMT 22 Jun 82

[Text] Cairo, 22 Jun (MENA) -- The Palestinian National Salvation Movement [PNSM] has called for forming a provisional Palestinian government to be based in Cairo and act as a Palestinian national salvation government.

Reporting this today, AL-AHRAM says the PNSM called upon [Gaza Mayor] Rashad ash-Shawwa to hold urgent consultations to form a national coalition government comprising all Palestinian factions including the PLO. The paper adds that PNSM official spokesman Khalil al-Yusuf has sent thanks to President Mubarak for welcoming the idea of forming a Palestinian government in Cairo, adding: We still believe Egypt's leading role is the basis and essence of the Arab move.

AL-AKHBAR 'ATTACKS' U.S. SUPPORT OF ISRAEL

NC200140 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0100 GMT 20 Jun 82

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jun (MENA) -- AL-AKHBAR, in its editorial to be published tomorrow. attacks [hajamat] the U.S. role supporting Israel in its aggression on Lebanon and the Palestinians.

The paper says this role has made the United States lose its standing with the Arabs, its future in the Middle East and its large interests in the Arab homeland. The paper adds that it is unreasonable and unacceptable for the Arabs to tolerate such a U.S. stance humiliating their dignity and such U.S. treatment humiliating them and which sweeps them aside in history to satisfy Israel and its wishes.

AL-AKHBAR affirms that the United States has committed a grave mistake and committed a mistake against itself and against its interests more than committing a mistake against the Arabs. The paper affirms that the Arabs have their potentials and resources and that they have huge energies with which they can influence the world and create for themselves a balanced stance in the world and that they will never be lost on the road of history.

AL-AKHBAR also notes the repeated statements by U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig in which he said his country is continuing its efforts for a cease-fire in Lebanon. The paper says it would have been better and more dignifying if the U.S. secretary freed himself from this statement which he repeats daily to the world and which raises only ridicule and laughter. The European Community member states have turned against the United States because of its pro-Israeli policy against the Arabs. Britain and France have informed the Reagan administration on behalf of the European Community of their strong criticism of U.S. policy toward the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. They said such a U.S. policy will lead to the collapse of Western influence in the Middle East and that Israel's policy, which the United States supports, will lead the area to the verge of the abyss.

The paper also notes the Arab stand and says it is even more critical and that the Arabs hold the United States responsible for all the consequences of the situation and for all the atrocities Israel has committed. The stand does not require exerting efforts or continuing efforts, as Haig says. The stand is its own stand and the United States is the one to judge it. Israel has committed its aggression according to a pre-agreed plan. The United States supports it by all means and protects it by all means it possesses.

CAIRO PAPERS ASSESS ARAB STAND ON LEBANON CRISIS

NC200600 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0115 GMT 20 Jun 82

[From the press review]

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jun (MENA) -- AL-JUMHURIYAH criticizes the Arab stand toward the current events in Lebanon and toward Israel's extermination of the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples. In an editorial on Sunday, AL-JUMHURIYAH says it is not solely Israel and its partners which are to blame for the invasion of Lebanon. The Arabs have helped Israel and have bowed down to it not only by keeping quiet but also by creating further fragmentation and division among themselves.

AL-JUMHURIYAH expresses surprise at this Arab stand at a time when the enemy is besieging an Arab capital, Beirut, with steel and fire and is threatening another Arab capital, Damascus. AL-JUMHURIYAH affirms that Israel's appetite for killing and destruction will not be satiated as long as it is reaping the fruit of its aggression without cost. Nothing will deter it from its aggression except an Arab stand pooling the Arabs' positive weapons and discarding their traditional differences.

Concluding its editorial, AL-JUMHURIYAH says this is the first time Israel's tanks have entered an Arab capital. History will record this for the Arabs. History will not show mercy toward those who have not learned its lessons nor read its pages.

In its editorial, AL-AHRAM calls on the Arabs, as they seek avenues to a genuine political perception through the veils of smoke and shelling, to be the masters of their fate at all times. It says others will not help them to solve their problems unless they first help themselves and demonstrate that they have an open mind and solid will and are making a conscientious effort. To find an escape in a mist of illusions, wishes and appeals for help is useless.

The paper says its call comes now that the stand of the two superpowers is clear. These two superpowers are only concerned about their own interests in the Middle East. Local infighting and regional internicine killing are matters that only concern the people of the area, provided that these actions do not directly affect the interests of the two superpowers or exacerbate the relations between them.

U.S. STAND ON LEBANON COMPARED TO 1956 CRISIS

JN200720 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0610 GMT 20 Jun 82

[From the press review]

[Text] Kamil Zuhayri writes in AL-JUMHURIYAH about the Lebanese crisis. He says: We should not expect a decisive measure from the diplomatic action and the political pressure regarding Lebanon, although this does not mean that we belittle the importance of the diplomatic efforts now being exerted to contain the Lebanese crisis.

Zuhayri notes that the current circumstances are not the same as those prevailing in 1956 which then forced the United States to pressure Israel to withdraw from the Sinai. Everybody, Zuhayri adds, hopes that such pressure will be repeated now to force Israel to withdraw from Lebanon. He asserts that Israel will continue its actions because no one can deter it, especially at a time when the Arabs are suffering from fragmentation and division.

Zuhayri recalls the time when Washington played a great positive role in deterring the aggression against Egypt in 1956, something that gave the United States huge popularity in the Arab world, crowned by considering the United States a complete partner in the peace process in the region.

Concluding, Zuhayri says some still hold good opinions of the United States and of the role it could play in deterring Israel. However, many things have changed since 1956.

CAIRO PRESS VIEWS INVASION, PLO-ARAB RELATIONS

NC210707 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2306 GMT 20 Jun 82

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jun (MENA) -- In their Monday editions, Cairo newspapers continue to comment on the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in light of the stands of the various parties involved in the conflict, the solutions envisaged for ending the crisis and the calls for Arab solidarity, the latest of which being the call made by the crown prince of Jordan.

In its commentary, AL-AHRAM affirms that the PLO has been shocked in its relations with some Arab countries and that this shock, which will continue to affect the PLO for a long time, is perhaps stronger than the Israeli invasion, which was expected. AL-AHRAM says the Palestinian officials' statements have begun to affirm that the PLO will make new calculations of all the stands and will reconsider its alliances. These statements also indicate that the overall discussion will deal with the strategy for the liberation of Palestine and whether the liberation of Palestine will be an Arab responsibility or the responsibility of the Palestinians alone.

AL-AHRAM criticizes those who are blaming the PLO because it has adopted the wrong options from the beginning and because it has wasted several political opportunities and has closed some doors through which it could have avoided the Israeli aggression against Lebanon. The newspaper says now is not the time for reprimand or recrimination, indicating that the Palestinian Resistance must have complete freedom to reconsider its views in light of previous and current stands. The Palestinian Resistance alone must rearrange its stands and make its own crucial decisions with complete freedom.

AL-AHRAM notes the Palestinian Resistance has particularly blamed Syria and the Soviet Union. At the beginning this blame was mild, indicating bewilderment and confusion. As the tragedy escalated, this blame turned into a strong reprimand and then to frank accusations of betrayal and treason.

In its commentary on the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, AL-JUMHURIYAH, in Monday's issue, accuses the Arab regimes in all their forms, whether traditional or otherwise, of having shared in the shaping of the Lebanon crisis the Palestinians are experiencing and [in enabling] Israel to persevere in the implementation of its expansionist and settlement policy.

The newspaper asks what the Arab governments have done to rescue the Palestinians from the war of annihilation Israel has launched against them and what have they done to halt the hail of bullets that has been showered on them from the ground, the sea and the air. The paper concludes its commentary by saying that the Arab governments met this hail of bullets with a flood of statements of denunciation and condemnation, as if each one of them wants to prove that it has adopted a stand it can boast of before the judgment of history as an exoneration or a clean bill of health.

In its commentary, AL-AKHBAR expresses support for the Jordanian crown prince's call for instituting an Arab political and economic strategy for confronting Israel and its plan for surrounding the Middle East region, describing the proposal as practical and wise. AL-AKHBAR points out that the Jordanian crown prince's proposal does not stem from a vacuum but represents an established fact because the Arabs have no other alternative but to depend on themselves and to constitute a single force within a strategic framework linking economic resources vis-a-vis the events threatening their existence.

The paper concludes its commentary by pointing out that the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and its developments take place in light of an American-Soviet policy charted on the basis of sharing the interests in the area. Therefore, the Arabs have no other way but to rely on themselves and to have a political and economic strategy with which they can confront the situation.

AL-AHALI SAYS LEBANON WAR DEBUNKING CAMP DAVID

PM211129 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 16 Jun 82 p 1

[Editorial: "The Israeli Aggression and the Government's Embarrassment"]

[Text] The Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the heroic steadfastness of the Lebanese and Palestinian people under the leadership of the Palestinian Revolution and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement has placed the Arab governments, the Egyptian Government foremost among them, in an extremely embarrassing position. This aggression has done away with the logic by which the Egyptian Government has been and is still justifying its political choices, agreements and international alignments. The "brainwashing" campaign the Egyptian media have been waging since the second disengagement agreement in 1975 and the visit to Jerusalem in 1977 as well as since the Camp David agreements and the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty has also failed.

The battles of Tyre, Sidon, An-Nabatiyah, Al-Biqa' and Beirut have proved that the Palestinians are not "cabaret strugglers," as they used to be described by the official media previously. Rather they and the Lebanese people are a fighting vanguard defending the Arab nation's honor.

We assure those who have any doubt that Israel is not the good neighbor defending his existence, driven by a complex created by wars lasting 30 years. Rather it is an aggressive military base that neither wants peace nor honors its obligations; it has one constant and continuing aim: to impose its hegemony on the area's peoples and subjugate them by force of arms. It understands Camp David in a way contrary to the way it has portrayed to us -- as a framework for peace.

Many people have now discovered the truth which all nationalities already knew: That the United States is neither ally, nor friend, nor partner. Rather, it is a colonialist state, hostile to the Arab nation's interests, and is Israel's full partner in its constant and continuing aggression against the Arabs. It has become clear to all that the danger threatening the security of Egypt and the area is not what is taking place in the Gulf or the imaginary Soviet danger but rather the danger on our borders and within the heart of the Arab nation, the danger from the Israeli enemy and his American partner.

Just as the illusions of prosperity have vanished, so have the dreams of peace with the Israeli-U.S. military arsenal. If the Egyptian Government wants to draw a lesson from what has happened and is happening, it still has a good opportunity to do so. It only has to listen to the heartbeat of the Egyptian man in the street and to the national forces' demand for the adoption of new stands and options and to turn the expressions of condemnation into action.

NPUG CALLS FOR JOINT ARAB ACTION ON LEBANON

PM181551 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 16 Jun 82 p 1

[Unattributed report]

[Excerpts] The General Secretariat of the National Progressive Unionist Grouping [NPUG] Party has demanded that the Egyptian Government freeze all relations with Israel immediately and halt Egyptian oil exports to it in view of its contribution to the Israeli war machine. The General Secretariat also called for reviving the collective Arab security pact and convening the Joint Defense Council to take all the necessary measures to bring into effect an economic boycott of the United States, reduce the size of the U.S. presence in the area, abolish any military facilities or bases, reduce the number of U.S. experts in the various fields, withdraw Arab assets from American banks, reconsider the system of oil sales to the United States and its allies with a view to gradual reduction and sale in return for other currencies and not exclusively for the dollar, expose the U.S. role in the media, and, if necessary, go as far as severing diplomatic relations with the United States provided that all this is adopted within the context of "Arab solidarity on the economic level so that the Arab countries can overcome whatever negative effects the implementation of such resolutions may have."

The General Secretariat also called on the Egyptian Government to attend such a meeting of the Joint Defense Council "because this is Egypt's historical role and responsibility" and to immediately freeze normalization with Israel and stop exporting oil to it.

U.S. Role in the Aggression

The statement affirms that "without any doubt the Israeli invasion of Lebanon was carried out with the full military and economic support of the Reagan administration. The most recent evidence of this is the Security Council veto of the resolution demanding Israel's immediate withdrawal." The statement added: "There is nothing surprising in this, for Israel, the long striking arm, is the best means that the United States possesses to punish the peoples seeking liberation, thus dispensing with the need to send forces overseas as Britain did against Argentina."

The General Secretariat statement explained that the aims of this new phase in the U.S.-Zionist planning against the Arab nation are clear and need no clarification. These include:

Taking Lebanon out of the Arab world by liquidating the Nationalist Movement and establishing a lackey Phalangist regime, or partitioning Lebanon into statelets which will all seek foreign protection, or occupying it with "multinational forces" which would be basically American.

The total liquidation of the Palestinian Resistance and the annihilation of the largest number of Palestinian men, women and children, thus ending the Palestine problem by physically liquidating the Palestinians.

Preparing the ground to liquidate Syria's military strength in a subsequent step or trying to achieve this end immediately.

Thus, the statement continued, this fifth war which Israel is waging aims at imposing the U.S.-Zionist will and is a continuation of the 1967 war.

Referring to the Arab situation, the statement said: "Although this invasion was expected by all and our party had warned against it since the signing of the Camp David agreement which protected Israel's back and since the Palestinian Resistance became the only stumbling block to complete Israeli domination, none of the Arab rulers took steps or action to prevent the occurrence of the catastrophe or at least reduce its effects. The Arab rulers have either had too much confidence in the 'friendly' United States, which has become either a 'full partner' or an ally and a source of protection against the 'Soviet danger,' or are preoccupied with the seats of power shaking under them because of the absence of democracy or involvement in an internal civil war or because others are preoccupied with a destructive external war or have imagined that any Arab conflict is more important than the historical challenge that Zionism and imperialism pose."

However, the statement asserts, this is not the time to shed tears over the past, since current action should be directed against the United States "because the Arabs at present have much greater means of pressuring the United States than of making war against Israel."

The statement renewed the party's call for organizing volunteers, donating blood and money, and collaborating with all the nationalist forces representing Egyptian popular parties, trade unions and democratic organizations in order to support the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples.

The General Secretariat decided to hold an extraordinary meeting next Monday and to keep the Central Committee Secretarit in constant session in order to follow the situation.

INTERIOR MINISTER ORDERS RELEASE OF DETAINEES

JN181544 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Jun 82

[Text] Interior Minister Hasan Abu Basha has issued an order for the immediate release of 182 detainees, whose release will not harm the security situation. The minister has issued instructions for providing the detainees with the necessary help according to the instructions of the president of the republic on investigating the conditions of detainees.

SADDAM HUSAYN: TROOPS TO WITHDRAW FROM IRAN

JN201900 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1604 GMT 20 Jun 82

[Speech by President Saddam Husayn to Iraqi people and Arab nation on 20 June -- live or recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brothers in great Iraq: I send you greetings of pride and honor, of dignity and glory. You, the people of Iraq from the northernmost point to the southernmost point deserve this greeting. You deserve the great things that will be said about you when history records the current events and gives you your rightful place. With God's help you have realized a great achievement which will have great effect now and in the future. For the first time in the Arab nation's contemporary history and since the fall of the Arab empire several centuries ago you were able to realize a unique and great achievement.

The battle you have waged against evil and aggression has been raging for more than 20 months and you are now standing up with pride and ability despite all the sacrifices you offered and the plots of the enemies and their efforts to defeat and disable you. The enemies wanted to deprive you of the spirit of victory. You have fought with courage and honor; you have fought in defense of your land, sovereignty and your kinfolk; in defense of the present and future of your country; in defense of the Arab nation's honor and the glory of Iraq.

From the very beginning, we said the battle which we were forced to wage was a defensive battle, but of a new type: We would not stand idly by in the face of aggression, and we would not allow the treacherous enemy to invade our territory, destroy our cities and humiliate our people and then cry over our ruins as some rulers like to do before treacherous Zionism. These rulers accepted the occupation of their territory and the violation of their dignity and then cried for help and begged repeatedly. They did not take up arms to liberate their territory and restore their dignity. You have not done this Oh glorious people of Iraq; you took up arms and fought the enemy when the aggression occurred and became blatant and clear. This is one of the reasons which brought out the grudges of the rancorous against you and exposed you to the hatred of those weak and sick rulers whose defeatism you have exposed.

You know we did not start the war; the suspect Iranian regime started the aggression and war. This regime, which was brought in by the suspect hands of international politics, considered Iraq its first enemy without any justification that can be considered commensurate with its confessed slogans. Iraq is a Muslim country; it is a free and independent country; it fights with sincerity and challenge against Zionism and imperialism and has suffered greatly in this fighting. How can those who raise Islamic slogans antagonize it? It is falsity my brothers. The Tehran rulers raised these slogans to deceive people and as a means to implement their mean plot prepared by the Zionist circles and the nation's enemies. They aimed at instigating sedition in Iraq in order to destroy it by dividing it into weak states belonging to Iran, Zionism and the nation's enemies. They wanted to destroy Iraq's independence and unity and to ruin the great achievements which we had scored with sweat and blood and which made Iraq a strong, unified, sound, progressive and prosperous country occupying a high place among the Arabs and in the world.

The suspect Khomeyni regime was quite aware that Iraq is an impregnable dam protecting the eastern flank of the Arab homeland and that if it managed to destroy this dam, God forbid, it could achieve its expansionist ambitions of sharing with Zionism and the ambitious and lurking foreign forces their hegemony and influence on the Arab Gulf, the Arabian Peninsula and all the states of the east.

They started provoking Iraq even before they came to power and escalated their plots after assuming power. They violated the 1975 treaty as Iran's shah had violated the 1937 treaty before them. They described the 1975 treaty as suspect and began their sabotage and destructive attempts against Iraq. We were patient and resorted to wisdom and some brothers and friends tried to reconcile Iraq and Iran in order to establish normal relations between them. However, they failed. The Tehran regime was arrogant and insisted on its aggressive and expansionist trend against our country, people and nation. We have patiently and wisely put up with all of Iran's hostile stands within the limits of sovereignty and dignity. However, when the Tehran rulers began to prepare to invade Iraq by massing troops on our border and in our territories and to prepare their air force to strike at our cities, our vital installations and air bases; when they embarked on aggression by shelling our border cities on 4 September 1980 from our own territory, which they were occupying at Zayn al-Qaws, Sayf Sa'd, (Haylah) and Khidr; and when they blocked our only sea outlet to the world, we did not remain silent. It was impossible for us to remain silent. We depended on God and confronted the source of aggression and its evil forces out of the desire to protect our country, believing in the legitimacy of our stand and depending on our people. Thus, we bravely and valiantly confronted the enemy's military concentrations in our territory and on our border. We pushed the enemy forces back and chased them deep inside Iran. In this way we provided the necessary protection for our territory and cities.

Brethren, the valiant Iraqi forces accomplished these defenseive tasks in 6 days and controlled strategically important lands, towns and positions inside Iran. They have thus guaranteed the protection of Iraq. A few weeks after the battle, our forces completely stopped their advance inside Iranian territory. At that time some asked why the Iraqis did not occupy this or that city or position. We frankly said we did not aim to occupy Iran's lands and towns for the sake of occupation or maintaining them. Our decision to defend our country against the aggression of the Tehran rulers and Iraq's lack of a geographic depth, preventing it from defending the border from its territory made us resort to this method. We are prepared to withdraw from the Iranian territories at any time Iran recognizes our border, rights, sovereignty and right to choose our own political and social system. We said and we still say this from a position of undoubted capability.

Despite its military defeat, the Tehran regime insisted on its aggressive stands and expansionist trends. This regime wagered on the fact that the war and its continuation would achieve its objectives. We had to fight, brothers, we had to fight valiantly and honorably. We had to face an odd situation unprecedented in disputes between nations. One state was forced to enter the territory of another state in self-defense. This state used to say daily: We are prepared to withdraw from this territory unconditionally. All we demand is recognition of our sovereignty and rights. But the state which has been militarily defeated stubbornly rejects this and insists on continuing the war, levelling threats and asserting its expansionist trends and desire to interfere in Iraq's domestic affairs as well as in those of the region's states.

In all our political talks with the parties which endeavored to mediate between Iraq and Iran, the Tehran rulers turned down the principle of negotiations and that of peaceful settlement. They said the solution must be found on the battlefield. Many of our brothers who offered good offices urged us to show flexibility here or there for the sake of creating a suitable atmosphere to convince the other side to halt the war. We responded to that, we responded to the Pakistani president's appeal in October 1980 by unilaterally ceasing the fighting.

We expressed our readiness to respond to appeals made by many sides to carry out a partial withdrawal as an expression of our good intentions. However, the Iranian regime turned down all this and insisted on continuing the fighting and war. Thus far, there has been no official statement by any official Iranian source, particularly by the decisionmakers in Iran, to define the international land and water borders between Iraq and Iran.

The enemy has repeatedly spoken about the need to define and condemn the aggressor. We told the committees which initiated the mediations that we were ready for that. On 19 March 1982, we proposed to Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure in a written message Iraq's desire for the formation of a factfinding Islamic committee to determine which side started the aggression and war. Before that, we informed the chairman of the Nonaligned Movement that Iraq was prepared to discuss this matter and to conduct a comprehensive analysis regarding who started the aggression and war. On 24 April 1982, we proposed in an official message to the late King Khalid, in his capacity as president of the Islamic Conference, and to President Sekou Toure, in his capacity as president of the Good Offices Committee, that the Islamic committee and the Islamic Conference undertake arbitration of the dispute between Iraq and Iran and we said Iraq was ready to accept the results of this arbitration. We also submitted a similar proposal on 25 May 1982 to Cuban President Fidel Castro, in his capacity as chairman of the Nonaligned Movement.

In my speech at the National Council on 11 April 1982, I declared that Iraq was prepared to withdraw all its forces from Iranian territory without any prior conditions if adequate guarantees were made available to us that Iran would not continue the aggression against Iraq. We discussed these ideas in a positive spirit with the Islamic committee, the nonaligned committee and the representative of the UN secretary general. We informed the Islamic Good Offices Committee that we were prepared to meets its call and leave for Mecca for the sake of reaching a just and honorable settlement to the dispute.

However, the Iranian regime turned down the Islamic committee's call as it had previously turned down all other attempts and initiatives. The Iranian regime ignored all these stands and persisted in continuing the war. It refused to make any commitment on recognizing the border between Iran and Iraq or on reaching a peaceful settlement. It used to put forward conditions which it knew quite well Iraq would not accept because they were humiliating conditions conflicting with the principles of sovereignty, international law and international relations and deeply harmful to Iraq's honor and its people's right to choose their way of life. This Iranian stand only meant insistence on keeping the issues of border and rights suspended so the Iranian regime could work in accordance with its expansionist viewpoint to realize its ambitions toward Iraq and the other suspect objectives entrusted to it. The Iranian stand cannot be explained otherwise. This is the only interpretation of the Iranian stand, which despite the presence of the Iraqi forces on its lands, refuses to indicate where the Iranian or Iraqi borders are. Moreover, senior Iranian officials blared out clear statements saying they do not recognize the border and they want to spread their authority over the other Islamic states, falsely claiming they represent Islam although they are most detached from Islam and its tolerant teachings.

The Khomeyni regime has wagered on the continuation of war to weaken Iraq and eventually enable it to cross into our country and achieve its expansionist ambitions and suspect aims. Otherwise, how can we explain this regime's insistance and obstinacy when it comes to getting back Iranian territories in return for an Iranian commitment to respect Iraq's sovereignty?

The war launched by the Tehran regime against us has revealed surprising facts which were not beyond our understanding. These facts contained strange contradictions. This suspect regime, which is based on charlatanism, used to unlimitedly curse the East and West, belittle international laws and norms and behave in a manner unprecedented except by the Zionist entity in its disrespect for international relations. It belittled all values and norms that regulate relations among nations such as respect for others' sovereignty and noninterference in their affairs. Nevertheless, several sides which appeared to contradict one another in their political trends and strategic interests and which disagreed with the Tehran regime's slogans flattered it, dealt with it and supplied it with material, military, political and information aid.

The Zionist entity supplied Iran with weapons, equipment, spare parts, expertise and information. Meanwhile, the Syrian regime closed its eyes to this scandal and allied itself with the Khomeyni regime against Iraq. At a time when the Khomeyni regime used to get the weapons and hardware it needed from Western sources, the Government of North Korea, at the beginning of the war, set up an airlift to supply this regime, which cursed the socialist countries, with weapons, hardware and experts. Several states which are considered in one way or another friends of one of the two conflicting camps supported Iran. At least two Arab regimes shamelessly, publicly and blatantly supported Iran with all their military, financial, political and intelligence potentials. This is in addition to the stands adopted by several parties and movements in the region among which there are thousands of contradictions. However, they all were in agreement on supporting the Khomeyni regime in its aggression and plotting against Iraq.

It is strange that the superpowers kept maintaining the position of onlooker toward the bloody conflict between Iraq and Iran. They made no tangible effort to stop the war although they embarked, and continue to embark, on solving military conflicts in the world by means of pressure although these conflicts might last for days or weeks despite the sensitivity of the area in which the war is taking place and the close connection of this area with international interests.

The present era has not witnessed a state such as that in which a conflict has been left raging for 2 years without any serious attempt to stop it although it has been raging in one of the most dangerous and vital regions in the world. O heroic Iraqis, a broad front has been formed against your combining all contradictions of the Arab and international situation. But you have upset the balance and proved that your faith in your cause and your defense of your country and nation will tip the scales.

Iran is bigger than Iraq as far as area and population are concerned. Iran is ahead of Iraq in many technical fields, such as armaments, military equipment and industry. Nevertheless, Iraq, armed with the faith of its sons and the gallantry of its armed forces and with the capabilities made available to it by the revolution, managed to score victory over the Khomeyni regime despite this suspect alliance supporting it.

O Glorious Iraqis, you should be proud that you have fought under such difficult circumstances. You have fought an enemy which is bigger than you. You have fought a vicious alliance comprising many hostile countries and quarters. You have fought fake slogans and allegations. You continued to fight against the enemy for 21 months on its land, after driving its army deep inside its territory until you stood on the approaches to Dezful, Shush and Ahvaz; entered Mehran; controlled Sumar, Qasr-e Shirin, Khasrowvi and Al-Muhammarah [Khorramshahr]; entered Khafajiyah [Susangered] Sar-e Pol-e Zahab and Gilan-e Gharb; controlled Hoveyzeh and Bostan and tightened your control over more than 20,000 square km of its territory, which is double the area of Lebanon. Your brave army continues to occupy the following four Iranian towns: Qasre-e Shirin, Sumar, Mehran and Khasrowvi as well as a large area of land.

You fought alone in this. Some Arab brothers have thankfully sided with us, but this stand, as far as direct action in the military operational theater is concerned, does not cancel the fact that you have fought alone with only a small number of brave Arab volunteers who were so zealous that they decided to participate in this pan-Arab and honorable battle whereas the allies of Iran, of Arabs and non-Arabs sided with Iran in an overt and official manner and with all means.

This is the primary cause that enabled Iran to regain some territory by means of fighting. Had it not been for this clear and wide support, Iran, with its intrinsic capabilities, would have failed to budge our armed forces from our positions. This was confirmed throughout the first year of the war when all the Iranian offenses were destroyed.

O glorious Iraqi brothers, the forces which formed alliances against you since the beginning of the war and helped the failing and collapsing Iranian regime, despite their contradictory interests, to stand up and continue the war against you and become a source of fear and terrorism in the region, are now trying to picture the results of the battles between us and Iran as an Iraqi defeat and a victory for Iran.

These forces falsify facts and spread false information to weaken the Iraqi morale and the Arab nation. They pretend to forget the basic facts in this situation. They pretend to forget that the Khomeyni regime began the aggression against Iraq, called for the occupation of Iraq and for overthrow of the revolutionary system in Iraq. They pretend to forget that from the beginning Iraq wanted to establish normal and good neighborly relations with Iran. They claim Iraq wanted to expand at the expense of Iran and that it failed to achieve that aim at a time when everyone knew that the Khomeyni regime talked and still talks of controlling and dominating Iraq and the region states. It was the Khomeyni regime and not Iraq which failed in its policy. It was the Khomeyni regime which fought inside its territory for 2 years and sustained heavy losses. They even falsified irrefutable military facts. They glorified the smallest Iranian move and belittled the great Iraqi military achievement.

We shall not forget what they said at the beginning of the war. They said the Iraqi Army entered Iran during the summer and would face difficulties in Arabistan when the winter came. The Iraqi Army fought strongly and bravely during the summer, autumn, winter and spring. The Iraqi Army managed in September 1980 to advance farther than was planned. Iran tried for 21 months and is still trying to regain the territories which the Iraqi Army captured within those few days. In every battle Iran suffered massive losses which no other responsible government could afford. Iran threw in thousands of young and old men and children to be killed in minefields and by the bullets of the Iraqi defenders. Some of our soldiers fought until they ran out of ammunition and you all know what that means in terms of the massive enemy losses. The Tehran rulers described these massacres as victories. Those who know about strategic battles will realize that Iraq won this confrontation and achieved its defensive targets. The Tehran regime on the other hand suffered a historic political and military defeat because it failed to achieve its expansionist and aggressive aims.

For 21 months Iraq managed to repulse the Iranian aggression against its land and cities and succeeded in moving the battle to the enemy's territory. Despite the fact that Iran was able to regain some important parts of its territory, that will not detract from the Iraqi victory, particularly when we consider Iran's intentions before and during the war, Iran's superiority in population and territory and the human, economic and military losses of the two sides, and we must not forget that the Iranian soldier was fighting on his own soil while the Iraqi soldier was not.

Those who blare out these false analyses and information certainly know these facts but they do not want to hear that an Arab country like Iraq and an Arab Army like the Iraqi Army managed to achieve all these accomplishments and endure a 21-month war under very bad Arab and international circumstances like those I have already indicated. The emergence of this accomplishment basically changes the Arab morale and the balance of power between the Arab nation on the one hand and the Zionist enemy and those who have ambitions toward Arab territory on the other. They are trying to tell the Iraqis and the Arabs that they have been defeated by the Khomeyni regime, whereas the one who was defeated is that unsuccessful and tattered regime which is no longer in possession of any principled or realistic justification to continue in Iran after its falsehood and alliance with Zionism have been exposed, after its charm has dwindled and after it has emerged as a backward, impotent and savage regime hated by the Iranian people, who are struggling to get rid of it, although its demagogy, ambitions and aims used to be feared by some big powers as well as the region's states.

The enemies concentrate on some details of the battles which took place between us and Iran, forgetting the final outcome of these battles. They specifically concentrate on our losses with regard to prisoners, particularly in the Al-Muhammarah battle. They do not mention the percentage of Iranian losses in personnel and equipment whether in this battle or other battles. We know that we lost a large number of prisoners in the Al-Muhammarah battle and before that in the Shush-Dezful battle. However, the number of prisoners is not the only element in assessing battles. There were millions of prisoners from the two warring sides in World War II. There were prisoners from the victorious and defeated sides alike. Both lost tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands and even millions of men as prisoners in that war. They do not want to mention that because Iraq took thousands of men as prisoners at the beginning of war when it attacked and chased the Iranian Army deep inside Iran.

Every war is assessed by its final outcome which is linked with the objectives of the sides participating in it. It is not assessed by only one of its elements. Iraq has triumphed in this war, as far as the final outcome is concerned. Iraq will also triumph in the future, God willing, because this struggle is a strategic struggle between aims and counter aims; between the desire to live in peace and work seriously to build the great, lofty and stable Iraq on the one hand and the expansionist desire which has ambitions against Iraq and the Arab nation on the other.

Iraq has managed, thanks to God, to preserve its security, sovereignty and freedom of choice. It has also managed to protect its gains and accomplishments and continue the march of progress and prosperity in all fields and under all circumstances, including those of war.

Brethren, this battle was a difficult test of Iraq's independence and your strong will for freedom. I have explained to you that seriousness of the alliance which was formed against us in this battle. This alliance was aimed against Iraq's existence as well as the Arab existence and Arab future. It was basically meant to paralyze the will of freedom and independence in Iraq and to force Iraq to relinquish its strong, sincere and independent stand and follow the bandwagon of international trends and axes after dividing Iraq and turning every part of it into a submissive servant of the foreigner, God forbid.

The Iranian regime, which is raising false slogans of independence and nonalignment, has fallen into the quagmire of showmanship and alliances with many sides in order to stand on its feet and implement its criminal plot against Iraq and the Arab nation.

This suspect regime has frankly and overtly betrayed all slogans and principles. It betrayed the Palestinian cause about which it bragged for long by forming an alliance with Zionism. It betrayed the principles of independence and freedom when it bargained with all international quarters and trends. It betrayed the principles of the Nonaligned Movement when it adopted hostile stands against it in order to achieve its selfish designs. It has finally betrayed the struggling unity of OPEC which was built as a result of long years of struggle against the monopolist companies and exploitative countries. It did so when it violated the market defined by OPEC and started to trade with oil in the black market and to conclude suspect deals which threaten the unity of OPEC and its methods of action.

O sons of Rafidayn, despite the siege many tried to impose on you and despite the alliance which included all contradictions in the Arab homeland and in the region against you as well as all international contradictions, you remained free, independent, steadfast and noble. You have your will in your hands and your decisions emanate from your conscience and minds. You continued to protect the principles and values in which you believe. You have not deviated from these principles and values. You safeguarded Iraq's unity -- people and land -- and entrenched the bases of optimism over the future and the glorious past. Iraq is proud to be a free and fully independent state. When Iraq speaks about nonalignment -- principles and policies -- it embodies these principles and applies these policies faithfully and sincerely. This has enabled us to gain the respect of all sincere and honorable people in the Arab world and the rest of the world. They chose Iraq to host the seventh nonaligned summit conference and to perform our duty within the context of this movement to which our affiliation represents a real expression of our independent pan-Arab stand and of our basic interests.

The war circumstances have not shaken our tenacious principles and policies. We were patient and endured and will emerge from the test, God willing, armed with our principles and free stand. This is a great achievement equal to the other achievements we accomplished in this battle.

History will record that no other state in this world will be able to wage a vicious, wide-scale and protracted war like our war against the Iranian aggression with all its alliances without giving up 1 inch of its freedom and independent will and without depending in one way or another on one of the international blocs and trends.

O glorious Iraqis, the grandsons of Babylon, Assyria and the great Abbaside state, you have preserved your glorious history and your bright present. You are true sons of this great people who built great civilizations and sublime principles. You remained free and independent. You did not give up but maintained your strength.

O brothers, our independent policies do not mean submission or isolation. Rather, our independent policies dictate that we build the broadest relations with the world countries on the basis of national and pan-Arab interests and on the basis of principles. We gained the respect of the friends and their cooperation continued with us in many domains.

Our faith in the principles of nonalignment and independence does not mean that we search for disputes and enmities without reason. On the contrary, these principles make it incumbent on us to consolidate and expand our friendships in the world and avoid stirring up enmities with other countries except those countries which conspire against us and our nation and threaten our interests and security. This policy also requires us to exert our utmost efforts to neutralize as many enemies as possible if they are ready for that on the basis of balanced relations which do not harm or bargain over our interests and which do not threaten our security, independence and pan-Arab struggle.

The war circumstances were a difficult test for us in this critical field. We thank God that your revolution, with its solid principles, vast experience and wisdom, which were refined by the national and pan-Arab experiences, has passed and will pass this test successfully, God willing.

Brethren, honorable Iraqi fighters, brave Arabs everywhere, we had to fight honorably and bravely in defense of our land, people, dignity and happy life. The danger brought about by the suspect regime in Tehran, in alliance with Zionism and the nation's enemies, not only threatened Iraq across the border, but also aimed at destroying Iraq, dividing it and stirring sedition among its people. What was harbored against Iraq was not difficult to understand. We can see what happened and what is happening in Lebanon and in other Arab countries. The enemies of Arabism have sparked off sedition in Lebanon and turned it into a laboratory for transferring sedition to the Arab homeland. They knew the existence of a strong, united, independent and prosperous Iraq would certainly be a basic factor in burying this Zionist sedition before it saw daylight. Therefore, they sought to plot against Iraq.

They tried this after the revolution and they tried to use agent Barzani at the beginning of the 1970's and up to 1975 to stir up sedition in Iraq and divide it. There was clearly cooperation between the Zionist circles and agent Barzani as there is today between the Khomeyni regime and the Zionist entity. Agent Barzani's plot in Iraq coincided with the eruption of sedition in Lebanon. However, the enlightenment of the revolution and its sons as well as these sons' strong will and high capability to besiege the Zionist and hostile plots and schemes enabled us to bury that plot and preserve Iraq's unity, sovereignty, independence and ability to rise and progress. The enemies then embarked on several attempts to contain the revolution and lure it into relinquishing its independent national and pan-Arab course. They sought to sabotage from inside the revolution and even from inside the party. However, all their plots and schemes failed and foundered on the rock of national unity. The Iraqi people's enlightenment and the courage of the Ba'thist strugglers, carriers of the mission of national and pan-Arab struggle, foiled all vile foreign plots. At last the international political trends came to power in Iran with Khomeyni in order to make him achieve for them what the others had failed to achieve. Therefore, they gave him a halo of false qualities, depicting him as a terrible power that could change all conditions in the region and even the world whenever he wanted. Khomeyni was not the only charlatan who appeared in Persia under the guise of religion. Many centuries ago, particularly after its adoption of Islam, Persia witnessed many charlatans and jugglers who tried to harm Islam under the pretext of safeguarding and interpreting it and who tried to destroy pan-Arabism under various slogans and pretexts. Arab and Islamic history has many examples of this.

They brought Khomeyni and were under the illusion he could achieve his plans. The Iraqi people, however, who truly believe in Islam and other heavenly religions, were aware of this vicious move from the beginning and they were not deceived by it. Several countries, parties, movements and individuals were drawn into this wave. Some were well aware and coordinated their moves to achieve suspect aims and others were drawn into it because of their unawareness, opportunist spirit and lack of self-confidence.

We Iraqi people, the defender of the eastern flank of the Arab world, had to confront this vicious trend as did our grandfathers throughout the ages when they confronted the Persian and Tartar invasions and the suspect racist attacks which aimed at striking at Islam, Arabism and Iraq.

We were destined to fight this battle and we fought it with God's help and were victorious and we shall be victorious. We sacrificed dearly, we lost some of our best men, noble martyrs, our brave knights and bearers of the Iraqi flag. They sacrified their blood in the battlefields as they pictured a proud, strong and prosperous Iraq.

We lost a great amount of money and suffered difficulties during this battle, but we believe that we won, thank God, because the evil intentions against Iraq were far greater than all our sacrifices and losses. We have gained and will gain with God's help our independence, dignity, liberty, security and the unity of our country. Let us imagine what would have happened to Iraq had the Khomeyni regime's conspiracy with Zionism and the Arab nation's enemies succeeded, God forbid. Before us is the experience of wounded Lebanon: This country could not, because of its circumstances, protect itself and avoid the conspiracy. This country's losses in men, women and children as well as to its economy, security, stability and dignity, would have been much less had it been as strong and natural as Iraq and had it confronted the conspiracy strongly and from the beginning just as Iraq did.

They wanted to move the battles inside Iraq, its cities and streets causing the death of tens of thousands, even hundreds of thousands of men, women, children and old people. They would have destroyed our cities, people and our tradition and progress. They also wanted to divide Iraq into ministates which would fight among themselves and become subservient to the Persian-Zionist alliance and to the ambitions of others.

That is what they wanted to happen to the Iraqis and there is no other interpretation for Khomeyni's vicious trend, which was carried to Tehran by Zionist and colonialist circles. These circles provided Khomeyni with arms, ammunition and expertise when he was confronted strongly and bravely by Iraq. You Iraqis have won, you have won and buried the conspiracy. You have given an example of sacrifice, gallantry, steadfastness and the highest level of responsibility. You have given massive sacrifices in the process but they were worth giving for the sake of protecting Iraq, its people, its unity, its progress and independence.

Your battle is not only a pan-Arab battle, it is a battle for the sake of the nation. Had it not been for the impregnable barrier you set up on the eastern flank of the Arab homeland, the winds of Khomeyni and Zionism would have stormed all the states of the east, and the Arab homeland would have been turned into sectarian ministates struggling against each other and submitting to the Persian and Zionist sultan and all the international forces. This would have also terminated the Arab presence, future security, freedom, culture and unity for hundreds of years. This is what was hatched against you. Oh Iraqis and sons of the Arab nation. But you fought and triumphed and changed the course of history. Your sacrifices will never be wasted. Rather, these sacrifices today constitute a great record in the history of this nation and this people.

As for us in steadfast Iraq, the battle which erupted in September 1980 is an extension of the battle of freedom in the revolution of the twenties and in the revolution of March 1941 as well in the first and second July revolutions. It is an extension of the battle for liquidating the spies, for nationalizing oil, for building Iraq and for preserving Iraq's national unity. It is a national battle in the full sense of the word. It is also an extension of all battles for freedom and independence waged by the Iraqi people for the sake of getting rid of foreign oppression, factors of division and dismemberment and elements of backwardness. It is a pan-Arab battle of the same class of the great battles which changed and continue to change the course of history.

If the suspects, agents and sick-minded and the imperialist and Zionist circles are trying today to belittle the importance of this historical battle, the Arab nation, despite its current complications, must reveal the great historic value of this battle waged by Iraq and the people of Iraq. Many sincere and faithful sons of the Arab nation have realized that. The day will come when this battle is assessed in a positive, deep and comprehensive manner in the entire Arab world.

O glorious Iraqis, oh glorious Iraqi women, we have explained to you Iraq's numerous peaceful initiatives. We adopted these stands under all circumstances and from a position of responsibility and capability as well as from the feelings of responsibility toward our people, our basic interests, our pan-Arab commitments and the Nonaligned Movement to which we sincerely belong and whose leadership will be shouldered by us during the next stage.

With the outset of the Zionist invasion of southern Lebanon, the Islamic peace committee urged Iraq and Iran to immediately stop the war. We responded to this appeal. The Revolution Command Council issued its historical statement on 10 June which includes Iraq's readiness to cease fire and withdraw its forces from the Iranian towns and territory and to resort to the arbitration of the Islamic Conference, the Nonaligned Movement or the UN Security Council. The Iranian regime has turned down this appeal and insisted on continuing the state of war.

Brethren, Iraq, which has fought bravely and valiantly, does not need to test its courage and steadfastness. Courage and steadfastness have been proven during 2-year battles, which others could not have endured for a few days, when it began to search for solutions and a cease-fire although it had to fight the enemy until it evacuated its lands and the Arab territories. However, out of our feelings of responsibility we are required to make some decisions which will foil the enemy's plans, refute its pretexts and abort the wicked plots being hatched against Iraq and the Arab nation -- plots whose most grave aspect was the Zionist enemy's occupation of dear Lebanon at a time when Iraq was preoccupied with war and Iran persisted in continuing the war despite all our generous, objective and logical offers. In this respect, we cannot forget the Zionist enemy's strike at the Iraqi nuclear reactor during the war and within the framework of collusion with the suspect Khomeyni regime. It was hoped that Iraq would remain preoccupied with this war so that the Zionist enemy and other forces could achieve their schemes against Lebanon and the region. The Khomeyni regime has settled accounts with the Zionist entity in return for the latter's supplies of weapons, hardware, spare parts, information and expertise.

Those who claimed to have confronted the enemy with theatrical methods and silenced their guns a few days and even a few hours after fighting have basically contributed to the continuation of the war and to Iraq's continued preoccupation with it. They have also escalated situations against Iraq and fabricated crises.

O sons of great Iraq, oh sons of the glorious Arab nation, oh brave and heroic fighters in the valiant Iraqi Armed Forces, our deep feeling of responsibility toward our country and nation and our knowledge of the nature of the plot which is being hatched against Iraq and the Arab nation at this delicate time -- a plot being hatched by Zionism, the Khomeyni regime and other circles some of whom come from the Arab homeland -- dictates that we make responsible decisions that will basically contribute to aborting this plot and defending Iraq and the Arab nation. Despite the fact that the Khomeyni regime has responded negatively to the statement issued by the Revolution Command Council [RCC] on 10 June, the RCC decided to continue to abide by the contents of this statement. We have begun and we will complete the withdrawal of our forces from inside the Iranian towns and territory to the borders within at most 10 days from today. We will also continue our efforts with the bodies which undertook mediation in order to end the dispute and reach the just and honorable settlement which we have called for from the beginning.

This responsible decision is based on the following considerations: to eliminate an important pretext being used by the suspect regime in Tehran to continue the war and to put this regime to a decisive test to disclose the rest of its real intentions to the greatest extent in front of Arab and world public opinion. The critical situation of the Arab nation which resulted from the Zionist occupation of Lebanon and the Palestinian Resistance's exposure to liquidation make it imperative that we be alert and ready for all eventualities and circumstances. Although we know from experience the close link between the Tehran rulers' scheme to continue the war and the stand of some Arab rulers who instigated this on the one hand and the treacherous Zionist aggression against Lebanon and the Palestinian Resistance on the other, we have to expose this collusion and topple all its false pretexts and undisclosed corners.

It is well known that a number of Arab rulers have sided with the Tehran regime. Some others have hesitated in supporting Iraq in its just battle. Other brothers have assisted us in one way or another and in well-known fields. Those who hesitated in giving us assistance and aid and who are siding with Iran gave false pretexts and excuses. They used to justify their actions by saying Iraq continues to occupy parts of the Iranian territory.

This responsible decision eliminates all pretexts, whether they are made from good or bad intentions. It also places before the Arab states their responsibilities toward this conflict in accordance with the Arab League Charter and pan-Arab responsibility.

Our responsibility toward the Nonaligned Movement and our hosting of the seventh nonaligned summit conference makes it incumbent upon us to eliminate any pretext used by anyone to conspire against the Nonaligned Movement and weaken our role in the movement and the historical meanings of holding the conference in Baghdad.

We believe this decision will contribute greatly to developing positive relations with the good forces of the Iranian peoples which opposed the aggressive war which was launched against Iraq by the Khomeyni regime and which seek to establish normal relations with Iraq and the Arab nation in the future. It will provide greater opportunities for the forces of good and peace as well as the friendly forces to stand by the side of Iraq against the source of aggression and expansion. These are, brothers, the justification for our decision.

Oh glorious Iraqis, oh sincere Arabs, our feeling of certainty in victory in this battle dictates that we carefully understand the nature of the new stage which has emerged as a result of our responsible decision. We must also carefully understand the tasks required of us as well as our sacrifices at this stage. This basic issue which should be placed before our eyes is that despite all our attempts to eliminate the enemy's pretexts and despite the clarity of our decisions, the suspect and covetous enemy will never give up its aggressive designs in Iraq. Therefore, we must expect it to continue its aggression against our land and people. This dictates higher preparedness for making sacrifices and further patience and vigilance to bury forever, with God's help, the designs of the covetous invaders. The Iraqi people, as proved by the ancient and modern history, are capable of defending their homeland and the right of choice and freedom.

Our valiant armed forces have fought for 21 months inside the Iranian territory in defense of Iraq. The Iraqi fighters have shown flexibility in their behavior in the land occupied by them. Our basic plan was not to keep the land but to destroy the enemy's war machine. Therefore, we used to withdraw from here and there in order to lessen the sacrifices and achieve the basic objective.

However, since our forces are standing on our borders, we will remain inflexible concerning territory. Any withdrawal would allow the Iranian invading forces to enter our dear and great Iraq. We must not forget that our Iraqi towns -- Basra, Mayzan, Khanaqin and Panjwin and others, are only a few kilometers from the borders.

Any enemy push into the Iraqi territory, God forbid, would mean that the battle is moved into our country. When we fought in enemy territory in defense of Iraq our losses were limited to martyrs, equipment and material. However, any enemy advance into our territory would mean that the losses would not be limited to the aforementioned. The enemy will bomb and destroy our cities; they will kill our children and women and cause the ruination of our country. These are the clear intentions of the enemy. If the Iraqi fighters fought inside Iranian territory bravely and stubbornly in defense of Iraq he will fight even harder on his border in defense of his homeland, cities, family and honor.

Oh heroic Iraqis, you are now facing the possibility of direct defense of Iraq, your homeland. You rejected capitulation and submissiveness and confronted the enemy and destroyed its concentrations and protected your country for 21 months. You fought bravely and obstinately and decided through your responsible attitude to withdraw. Now you face the task of a more noble battle, a battle that will demand bigger sacrifices. We are confident we know Iraq, Iraqi men and women and we are confident the enemy who suffered massive losses inside its territory will find that every grain of Iraqi soil is a spear that will pierce its heart. We are now, more than ever before, required to stand fast with great determination and to mobilize all our national resources to defend the homeland and confront all possibilities.

Oh brothers, it is the duty of the leaders to give the people the full picture and define the duties of every citizen in every stage of the national struggle and lead him responsibly and bravely and we shall achieve this with God's help. This is what lies ahead of us and these are the duties of the Iraqi men and women. I am one of you, I know your spirit, live your life and sense your determination to be brave and sacrifice. I am confident that our dear and strong Iraq which was victorious and shone in the Arab sky will remain victorious. I do not for one moment doubt our ability to be victorious. I am confident that the heroic Iraqi men and women who confronted and defeated the enemy on its territory will with God's help bury the conspiracy, destroy the dreams of the covetous and protect Iraq and keep its flag hoisted high.

Let the flags of the just struggle, steadfastness and sacrifice for the sublime principles be hoisted high. Long live the proud sons and army of Iraq! Let every grain of Iraqi soil be a sword in the face of the enemy! Let every breeze of Ar-Rafidayn air be a fire that burns aggression and the covetous! Long live the glorious Arab nation! May God guide you and protect you and with God's help you shall be victorious.

They prayed: "Our Lord: Pour out constancy on us and make our steps firm: Help us against those who reject faith." [Koranic verse] May God's peace and blessing be upon you.

COMMUNIQUE 749: 5 IRANIANS, 3 IRAQIS KILLED

JN211555 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1530 GMT 21 Jun 82

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Jun (INA) -- The Iraqi military communique which was issued here this evening said the Iranian forces had bombarded with artillery the Iraqi forces which continue to abide by the cease-fire decision. The communique put Iranian losses during the past 24 hours at five killed against three Iraqi martyrs. The communique added that the enemy this morning shelled civilian quarters and vital installations in Basra with heavy artillery, causing some damage.

Communique No 749 issued by the Armed Forces General Command:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. At a time when our valiant armed forces continue to abide by the contents of the speech delivered yesterday by Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, and by the Revolution Command Council's statement of 10 June, the Iranian enemy continued its aggression against our armed forces. The Iranian enemy shelled our units which had to reply to silence the sources of fire.

The known enemy losses for last night and today amount to five killed against three Iraqi martyrs. This morning the enemy shelled civilian quarters and vital installations in Basra causing some damage.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 21 June 1982

COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH FRG 21 JUNE

JN211823 Baghdad INA in English 1600 GMT 21 Jun 82

[Text] Baghdad, June 21, INA -- Iraq and the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG), signed here tonight a joint minutes for economic, scientific and technical cooperation at the conclusion of the first session of the Iraq-FRG joint committee. The minutes was signed by Iraq's Revolution Command Council member and minister of industry and minerals, Tahir Tawfiq and from the German side by minister of economics, Otto Graf Lambsdorff.

The joint minutes provides basis of promoting trade exchange between the two countries and encouraging further Iraqi exports to FRG. According to the minutes, Iraq and the FRG agreed to develop bilateral cooperation in the fields of industry, oil industry, irrigation, agriculture, energy, transport and communications as well as to the technical and scientific cooperation in the fields of technology transfer, training and exchange of experts. Mr Tawfiq and Mr Lambsdorff at the signing ceremony exchanged words stressing on the successful outcome of the first session's meetings and the two countries wish to further consolidate and promote bilateral relations based on the mutual benefit of their peoples.

Talks Conclude

LD211026 Hamburg DPA in German 0943 GMT 21 Jun 82

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 21 Jun (DPA) -- The Federal Republic and Iraq are to examine the possibility of German participation in Iraq's oil production and the search for new oilfields. This is one of the results of the 2-day talks conducted by Federal Economics Minister Count Otto Lambsdorff and the Iraqi leadership, which ended today in Baghdad. Lambsdorff told journalists that such participation was the best means of increasing Iraqi oil exports to the Federal Republic in the long term, thereby reducing Iraq's trade deficit with the Federal Republic, which runs into billions of marks.

RELATIONS ESTABLISHED WITH ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

JN211818 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1545 GMT 21 Jun 82

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Jun (INA) -- The Governments of Iraq and Antigua and Barbuda have agreed to establish diplomatic relations. The decision was announced here today in an official statement which said it was taken in order to bolster coopeation between Iraq and Antigua and Barbuda. The statement said the establishment of diplomatic relations will commence as of today and at the level of a nonresident ambassador.

ROMANIA'S CEAUSESCU CONTINUES VISIT TO AMMAN

18 June Banquet Speech

JN191430 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 18 Jun 82

[Speech by Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu at a banquet held in his honor by King Husayn at Basman Palace in Amman on 18 June -- processed from Arabic translation -- recorded]

[Text] Your Majesty and dear friend King Husayn, your highness, dear Jordanian friends: I would like to express our full satisfaction with this visit to your country and our appreciation for the warm reception accorded to us and the fruitful talks which we have had with you. I would also like to thank you for your appreciative words and the best wishes which you expressed toward us and the Romanian people.

For my part, I would like to express, on this occasion, our thanks and appreciation to you, coupled with our warm cordial greetings and best wishes to you, personally, and for the progress, prosperity and peace of the friendly Jordanian people.

Our present visit to your country expresses the existing good and strong relations between us. It also expresses a common desire to work for more cooperation for the mutual benefit and interest of both countries and peoples.

I am pleased to note, on this occasion, that our meetings and talks in Bucharest and Amman and the documents that were signed on those occasions have set the firm bases for the rapid growth of the existing relations between our two countries in various fields. These relations are based on the principles of complete equality in rights, respect for each other's independence and national sovereignty, noninterference in each other's domestic affairs and mutual benefits. I can say, thanks to these bases, that the relations of friendship and cooperation between us have developed strongly.

Our present visit to your country takes place in difficult circumstances experienced by the whole world, but especially the Middle East. I believe this visit also responds to our existing good relations, which we hope will further develop in all fields.

During the talks we held, we both agreed to continue to expand cooperation between the two countries in the economic, technological, technical and other fields. A few minutes ago, we signed a long-term cooperation agreement, which will open vast new vistas in expanding cooperation between us.

At the same time, we exchanged views on the international situation in general, and on the situation in Lebanon and the Middle East in particular. I would like to announce here that we reached common conclusions and stands concerning the work needed to achieve a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in this region and to achieve peace in the whole world.

Therefore, I believe I can say that despite its briefness, our visit has led to distinctive results with regard to our common relations and our cooperation on the international level.

As is understood, the current international situation has become very tense. The policy of force and the threat to use force, the arms race, the widening of the gap between the rich and the poor and the deepening of existing disputes have all created a grave situation jeopardizing peace and security. This policy has even endangered the existence of mankind, this great creation of nature. We can correctly say that the main issue of our era is to end the arms race and move to disarmament, beginning with nuclear disarmament and guaranteeing free progress and peace for the whole world.

It is essential to exert every effort to abandon the policy of the use of force and to solve all disputes by peaceful means only. It is essential to completely avoid resorting to military operations. There is not a single problem, no matter how complicated, that cannot be solved by political means, if we respect the right of every people to develop freely and independently and the interests of world peace and security.

Negotiations may be long and complicated, but they are still much better than resorting to military means. Difficult moments may arise during negotiations, but there must be patience, especially from the weary diplomats taking part in such negotiations. I believe it is better to resort to negotiations, in which diplomats become weary, rather than to military means, which lead to enormous human and material losses.

Romania has always stood for a political settlement of the Middle East question. We have denounced and are still denouncing Israel's military operations in Lebanon against the country's sovereignty and the Palestinian people. Such operations will only further complicate the situation in the Middle East and place new obstacles to achieving a just and lasting peace in this region. It is therefore necessary to put an immediate end to these military operations and to begin speedy Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. Every effort must be exerted to negotiate a comprehensive peace based on Israeli's withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967, a solution to the problem of the Palestinian Arab people and their right to determine their fate and to establish their independent Palestinian state. At the same time, the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of all states in rhe region must be guaranteed.

The Palestinian people have the right to determine their fate and to establish their state in order to live there as a sovereign and independent people. At the same time, and as I have said in the past, Israel has the right to live in peace and in an atmosphere of good neighborliness with its neighbors. Only on this basis can a permanent peace be reached -- peace that is commensurate with the interests of the people of this region and with the cause of peace and security in the world.

Romania believes efforts must be exerted to end the Iraqi-Iranian dispute and to solve the issues between the two countries through negotiations in the interest of the two countries and the interests of the peoples in the region because their interests demand an end to tension and war and an atmosphere of peace and security conducive to development. As a European state, Romania works firmly and with the cooperation of other states on the European Continent to stop the deployment of new medium-range missiles in Europe and the withdrawal of the existing missiles in order to realize a unified Europe, a Europe dominated by peace and cooperation, a Europe that is free from nuclear weapons.

The special UN General Assembly session on disarmament is now being held. Peoples of the world are awaiting practical measures by this session to stop the arms race and to implement disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament. Romania is taking part in this session and is determined to render effective contribution to realize this end which is aspired to by all of humanity. We will submit a number of proposals to achieve disarmament. We appreciate that a number of important proposals have already been submitted and we believe these proposals and those which will be submitted should be the basis for measures related to disarmament. We are now in need of tangible work and not propaganda because the existence of mankind is in danger. It is essential for us to work in complete unity with all the people of the world in defense of the freedom, independence and life of these peoples.

We highly appreciate the peace movements in Europe and other continents. The Romanian people also take part alongside other peoples in these peace movements.

We are certain that the increasing efforts of the people will force the governments to take into consideration their desire for peace.

In today's world, the developing states are in a serious situation. The differences between the rich and poor have been aggravated. Therefore, we believe it is necessary to strengthen solidarity and cooperation among the developing states with the aim of establishing a new world economic order. The rich states must realize that without considering the interests of the developing states, neither peace nor economic balance can be maintained in the world. Progress and prosperity for certain people cannot be realized at the expense of others and through controlling and overcoming others. In this regard we seek and endeavor to establish new relations of justice and equality. Our contemporary world's complex issues demand close cooperation among all states regardless of their social or political systems. It is essential to ensure the participation of all states, particularly the small states, the developing states and the nonaligned states, in solving these problems on an equal footing.

We highly appreciate the role of the Nonaligned Movement and believe the nonaligned summit conference which will be held in Baghdad this fall has special significance and must play an important role in solving international issues. We must work toward strengthening the role of the United Nations and other international organizations in solving serious problems faced by humanity today. At the same time, all states must realize and understand the well-known principles: equality, respect for sovereignty and independence, noninterference in each other's internal affairs, renunciation of the policy of force and the use of force.

I would like to point out with satisfaction the good cooperation between Romania and Jordan on several international issues. I am convinced that the documents which we have signed open new doors for expanding and promoting mutual cooperation and our cooperation on the international level in the interest of the two countries and peoples and for the sake of cooperation, sovereignty, independence and peace in the world. I hope the cooperation and friendship between Romania and Jordan will be strengthened. I wish the friendly Jordanian people further progress in their independent and free economic and social development and wish you my dear friend success, good health and happiness.

Victory for peace and cooperation all over the world! Victory to people's independence!

Trade Agreement Signed

JN190701 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 19 Jun 82

[Text] At Basman Palace yesterday, His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu signed a long-term agreement for economic and technical cooperation and trade between Jordan and Romania. The agreement provides for the expansion of bilateral cooperation between the two countries in the fields of research, energy, industry, minerals, transportation and agriculture as well as for the development of trade on the basis of mutual interests. The agreement also provides for an increase of trade between the two countries to $100 million this year and to $500 million by 1985.

Departs Amman 19 June

JN190827 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 19 Jun 82

[Excerpt] His Excellency Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu and the members of his delegation left Amman this morning following a 3-day official visit to Jordan during which he held talks with His Majesty King Husayn and senior officials on developments on the Arab and international levels and the strengthening of relations between Jordan and Romania. An agreement on economic and technical cooperation was signed by the two countries. The great guest was seen off by His Majesty King Husayn.

Joint Statement Issued

JN191615 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1220 GMT 19 Jun 82

["Text" of Jordanian-Romanian joint statement issued simultaneously in Amman and Bucharest on 19 June on Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu's visit to Jordan]

[Text] 1. At the invitation of His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal, Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu paid an official visit to Jordan from 17 to 19 June 1982.

2. During their stay in Jordan, President Ceausescu and the ranking officials accompanying him were accorded warm hospitality as an expression of the mutual feelings of friendship between the Jordanian and Romanian peoples.

3. A fruitful exchange of viewpoints was conducted between Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu and His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal during the Romanian-Jordanian talks. An atmosphere of friendship, frankness and mutual respect prevailed during the talks.

Attending the talks on the Romanian side were Ion Dinca, first deputy prime minister; Stefan Andrei, minister of foreign affairs; Ion Stanescu, minister, head of Department for Construction Abroad; Ion Nicolae, minister of state for foreign trade affairs; Vasile Pungan, minister secretary of state and presidential counselor; Marin Nedelcu, adviser to the president; and Andrei Cervencovici, Romanian ambassador in Amman.

Attending the talks on the Jordanian side were His Highness Crown Prince Hasan; Prime Minister Mudar Badran; Ahmad al-Lawzi, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; 'Amir Khammash, minister of court; Staff Lt Gen ash-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces; Hasan Ibrahim, minister of the occupied land affairs and acting foreign minister; Walid 'Asfur, minister of industry and trade; Dr Hanna 'Awdah, chairman of the National Planning Council; and Dr Nasir al-Batayinah, Jordanian ambassador to Romania.

5. [number as heard] During the talks, the two sides discussed issues that concern the two countries and peoples. The two leaders focused on developing and expanding the friendly relations between Romania and Jordan on all levels of mutual interest. Viewpoints were exchanged regarding the various basic world issues.

6. The two leaders expressed satisfaction with the continued development in the friendly relations between the two countries and the fruitful cooperation between them in the political, economic, cultural, scientific and other fields. These relations are compatible with the basic interests of the two countries and peoples, with their independent progress and with the broad line of world peace and cooperation. The experience in Romanian-Jordanian cooperation and friendship justifies the confidence of the two countries to the effect that the relations among world countries, irrespective of their social and political systems, can develop harmoniously in accordance with mutual interests based on the principles of equal rights, actual respect of sovereignty and independence, nonintervention in others' domestic affairs and the right of all people to determine their future according to their interests and aspirations.

7. The two sides stressed the importance of contacts and talks between the two leaders to promote joint ties in all fields of mutual interest. It was also asserted that the agreements concluded during the numerous meetings between President Ceausescu and His Majesty King Husayn have formed a momentum for successful development in relations between the two countries.

8. The economic relations between the two countries enjoyed a special importance during the talks. The two leaders expressed their satisfaction with the significant development in these relations. They pinpointed the important role being played by the general agreement for cooperation signed by the two leaders in April 1975 and the protocols concluded by the Joint Governmental Committee for Economic, Technological and Scientific Cooperation in boosting and diversifying the economic ties between the two countries in the past years. This is in addition to enhancing the mutual cooperation between the two countries compatible with the agreements reached at the highest levels. The two sides stressed the importance of developing trade between the two countries in the future, beginning with the new capabilities ordained by the two countries economies.

The two leaders agreed to intensify the efforts aimed at expanding the economic cooperation between Romania and Jordan, taking into consideration the experience gained so far such as the building of the petroleum refinery in Az-Zarqa' and the installation of the high voltage cables through the joint efforts of the workers, technicians and engineers in the two countries. This has tangibly contributed to promoting friendship between the Jordanian and Romanian peoples. In this regard, the two leaders decided to expand the economic cooperation between their two countries by increasing this cooperation in the current fields and by searching for possible cooperatiion in new fields such as energy, industry, mining, transport and agriculture and by developing trade based on mutual benefit.

The two sides focused on the possibility of increasing the volume of trade between the two countries to reach $100 million in 1982 and in the hope of reaching $500 million by 1985, provided this is in line with the capabilities and interests of the two countries' economies. Consequently, during the visit, the two leaders signed a long-term agreement for economic and technical cooperation and for trade between the two countries.

9. The two sides expressed satisfaction with bilateral cooperation in the fields of culture, education and training. They expressed their desire to expand and diversify relations in these fields. In this regard, the Jordanian side expressed thanks for the Romanian side's efforts in training a large number of Jordanian youth in Romanian universities.

10. The two leaders asserted the determination of their two countries to exert efforts to deepen and consolidate cooperation in the interest of the Romanian and Jordanian peoples, to consolidate the democratic principles in their relations, to keep the detente process going, to strengthen security and cooperation in Europe, to achieve a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East and to consolidate world peace and progress.

11. The two leaders exchanged viewpoints regarding international issues and world developments. The two leaders expressed their apprehension over the deteriorating international situation. They stressed the need to work in a spirit of responsibility to end world tension and safeguard the freedom and independence of all peoples and countries compatible with the policy of international detente and peace. The two leaders stressed the importance of concerting the efforts of all peoples to end the imperialist and colonialist policy aiming at creating spheres of influence and to form a new policy among world countries based on mutual respect and equal rights among the sovereign and independent states and also based on guaranteeing the legitimate right of every people to determine the best way for their development far from any foreign intervention.

12. The two leaders stressed the need for settling international disputes through peaceful means and with the participation of all parties concerned. In this regard, the two leaders focused on the tense situation in the region. The two sides affirmed that the settlement of the situation in the area depends mainly on the solution of the Palestinian issue which constitutes the crux of the conflict in the region.

The two leaders asserted that the comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East should be built on the basis of the full Israeli withdrawal from all the Arab territories occupied in 1967, including Arab Jerusalem and the recognition of the national rights of the Palestinian people including their right to self-determination and the setting up of their independent state on their national soil. This should be done in order to guarantee the rights of all the states in the region to enjoy freedom and independence.

13. The two sides once again condemned the Israeli practices in the occupied Arab territories, particularly the expropriation of land, establishment of settlements, economic harassment, suppression of freedom, liquidation of national leaderships and attempts to impose civilian administration on the inhabitants. The two sides also reaffirmed their firm stand against the hostile activities being practiced by Israel against the Arabs in the occupied Arab territories and against Israel's illegal annexation of the Golan Heights.

14. The two sides condemned Israel's annexation of Arab Jerusalem and transformation of the city's demographic, economic, cultural and historical character.

15. The two sides consider the Israeli project to dig a canal linking the Mediterranean with the Dead Sea an obvious violation of international law, particularly the rules related to the basic rights and duties of all states. If this project is implemented, it will do irremediable damage to the rights and vital legitimate interests of Jordan and the Palestinian people.

16. The two leaders stressed the need to intensify efforts toward the realization of a just, comprehensive and lasting solution to the situation in the Middle East. In order to reach such a solution, the two sides believe that the convocation of an international conference under the sponsorship and with the participation of the United Nations will be largely beneficial on condition that all concerned states, including the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative, the USSR, the United States and any other state that may help settle the complicated problems in this part of the world, take part in it. The two sides stressed the importance of strengthening Arab solidarity, unity of action and efforts to reach a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the region.

17. The two leaders reaffirmed the stance of both Jordan and Romania toward the hostile actions being practiced by Israel against Lebanon and the repeated attacks on Lebanese territory. They stressed their objection to any direct or indirect interference in Lebanon's internal affairs as well as their objection to the repeated attempts to escalate tension there. Meanwhile, the two sides strongly condemn Israel's military invasion of Lebanon and call for a prompt withdrawal of the Israeli forces. They assert their strong support for the legitimate authority in Lebanon so that this authority can exercise its jurisdiction over all Lebanese territories and achieve a large-scale national reconciliation, taking into consideration the interests of the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples. By such national reconciliation Lebanon's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity can be guaranteed and these objectives can be safeguarded.

18. The two great leaders decided to remain in constant touch and continue to hold bilateral talks to discuss the development of the situation in the Middle East whenever necessary.

19. While expressing their deep concern over the continuation of the dispute between Iraq and Iran, the two leaders support the call for a prompt halt of military aggression in order to reach a peaceful settlement through negotiations, discuss the standing differences between the two countries and establish new relations between them on the basis of complete abidance by the principles of independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and nonintervention in internal affairs in the interest of the Iraqi and Iranian peoples and in the interest of establishing the bases of peace in the region and the world at large.

20. The two leaders exchanged views on the situation in Europe. They stressed the importance their two countries attach to the consolidation of the principles of security and development of broad cooperation among the European countries because this would have a positive effect on world peace and understanding. They expressed conviction of the possibility of realizing tangible progress along the road of achieving security and cooperation in Europe which would greatly affect the political atmosphere in the entire world. This in turn would contrubute to reaching satisfactory results on the level of world peace and to achieving detente in international relations.

The two leaders pointed out that the only means to establish pillars of security in Europe is to limit the stockpiling of weapons and to begin serious talks on disarmament. The two sides expressed their support for the nonproliferation of medium-range missiles and for the withdrawal of the already deployed missiles for the sake of establishing new relations on the European Continent based on the removal of nuclear weapons as well as all other weapons.

21. His excellency the Romanian president and His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal pointed out the special importance characterizing the European conference for security and cooperation, which is currently convening in Madrid. They also stressed the need for continuing the meetings of the conference in a constructive atmosphere that would achieve positive results because this would pave the way for holding a conference aimed at building confidence, achieving disarmament on the continent and securing the march of cooperation and security in Europe.

22. The two sides favor the holding of negotiations for the sake of reaching a peaceful settlement of all the outstanding problems among the Balkan states in an attempt to developing the relations of good neighborliness among these states so that these states would be transformed into a region overwhelmed by peace and free of nuclear weapons.

23. The two leaders reiterated their confidence in the fact that the only way to solving the world economic crisis to guarantee rapid development of the Third World countries which, under the prevalent circumstances, are facing the gravest economic difficulties, is the attempt to get rid of backwardness and establish a new world economic order. They reaffirmed the need to exert further efforts in an attempt to establish a world economic order as a basic condition to achieve a political and economic stability that would contribute to safeguarding the world peace and security. The two sides asserted that the role that should be played by the developing countries and the nonaligned countries is to develop closer cooperation among these countries and harmony in their viewpoints, particularly when holding talks with the advanced countries and when reaching wider economic cooperation with them in order to achieve joint interests. In this regard, the two sides believe that holding a summit conference for the developing countries in the near future, aimed at reacing the aforementioned objectives, would be useful.

24. In light of the prevalent international situation, when the main problem is peace or war and with the two sides asserting that the interest of international security and peace lies in finally giving up armed struggles, the two sides noted that the urgent issue at present is limiting the arms race and adopting tangible steps toward achieving disarmament, foremost world stability, alleviating tension, improving international relations and reviving world culture and the future of mankind.

The two sides stressed the need for withdrawing foreign troops, evacuating military bases set up in other countries and utilizing the money and resources that would be made available as a result of disarmament in the field of economic development in all countries, particularly the less-developed ones. The two sides stressed the need for setting up nuclear-free regions in various parts of the world such as the Balkans, the Middle East and other regions.

While attaching special importance to the current UN General Assembly's session on disarmament, the two sides expressed the desire of their two countries to fully contribute to making decisions compatible with the nations' aspirations and expectations in putting an end to the policy of armament and living in a world free of weapons and wars.

25. The two leaders stressed the need for solving the complicated problems our contemporary world is suffering from in a new democratic spirit and with effective participation of all countries equally irrespective of their size or social structure. Accordingly, the two leaders pointed out the importance of the role that should be played by the developing and nonaligned countries including small and medium states in studying and solving the present international issues. They also stressed the need for a greater role and wider participation by the United Nations and the other international agencies in solving the current issues.

The two sides agreed to enhance cooperation between the two countries on the international level represented by the United Nations and other bodies to encourage the various initiatives presented by the two governments in the fields promoting the UN role, setting up a new world order for mankind, contributing to the International Youth Year, freezing military budgets and other domains of mutual interest.

The two leaders drew the attention to the important role shouldered by the Nonaligned Movement as an independent intermediary in international affairs, particularly in the field of consolidating and backing up peace, independence, equal rights among all countries, coooperation and progress all over the world. The two leaders expressed the hope that the nonaligned summit conference, scheduled to be held in Baghdad in September 1982, will be an important program in the history of efforts being exerted by this movement and its members states for the sake of solving the complicated problems mankind is suffering from in our present age.

26. His Excellency President Nicolae Ceausescu and His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal expressed their complete satisfaction with and confidence that this meeting had formed an effective participation and a broad strong support of bilateral relations on international level.

27. Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu expressed, on behalf of his delegation and in his own name, the deep thanks and appreciation to His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal and to the Jordanian people and government for the hospitality accorded them during their visit to Jordan.

The Romanian president extended an invitation to His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal to visit Romania. The invitation was gratefully received. The date of the visit will be set later.

KING HUSAYN VISITS PLA HOSPITAL IN AMMAN

JN212045 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Jun 82

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn, accompanied by Staff Lt Gen ash-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, visited the Palestinian Liberation Army [PLA] hospital in Amman where he visited the wounded who fell during the Zionist invasion of Lebanese territory.

His majesty the king enquired about the condition of the wounded and talked with them. He was also reassured about their condition. His majesty the king praised their bravery and the courage of their brothers -- the sons of the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples -- in their confrontation of the Zionist invading forces. His majesty met with Col Na'im 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Khatib, the PLA commander in Jordan, and with hospital employees. His majesty was briefed on the inhuman practices of the Israeli invading forces which are flouting all international norms and laws, and on the sufferings of the wounded and helpless citizens during the invasion operation.

Colonel al-Khatib praised the stand of Jordan -- the king, the government and the people -- in supporting the Palestinian people who are resisting the Israeli invading forces and in offering the various facilities that have enabled volunteers to perform their duty perfectly.

AD-DUSTUR WARNS AGAINST ATTEMPT TO DISARM PLO

JN210933 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 21 Jun 82

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "PLO and Politics," AD-DUSTUR says: In his interview with AL-AHRAM yesterday, His Highness Crown Prince Hasan warned against turning the PLO into a political organization. This warning supports the PLO, which has rejected the U.S.-Israeli maneuvers to disarm it even when it is besieged in Beirut. The PLO has declared it will fight to defend itself and Beirut regardless of the price or nature of the sacrifice.

In fact, the attempts to blackmail the organization and force it to lay down its weapons under the current circumstances would mean the fall of the PLO in the same mistaken manner in which As-Sadat willingly fell when he began to openly declare that the October war was the last war and that the Palestinian cause could be solved only by negotiations. He followed that course until he came face to face with the Israeli obstacles: No to the Palestinian state, no to the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and no to the demands for Israel's withdrawal from the Palestinian territory occupied in June 1967, particularly Jerusalem.

If Israel uses its occupation of Palestinian territory to ask for Arab capitulation as an Israeli concept of peace, what will Israel then give the Palestinians? What opportunities has Israel left for political action after its occupation of Lebanon whether the PLO or other Arabs are the other side to this action? This fact made PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat enter the UN carrying an olive branch in one hand and a gun in the other to indicate that the Palestinian weapons aim eventually at restoring Arab rights in Palestine and achieving a just peace. Laying down arms means abandoning rights and peace. It is a matter concerning all Arabs and Palestinians and no one can impose it on them even if the whole Arab world is besieged.

REPORTAGE ON ISRAELI INCURSION 21-22 JUNE

Israelis Shell Beirut Hospital

NC211114 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 21 Jun 82

[Text] The Palestinian Red Crescent Society has issued a statement in which it said that Israeli forces shelled 'Akka [Acre] Hospital in Beirut this morning, killing 2 patients and wounding 13 other persons who were being treated at the hospital, including 5 children.

VOP Denies Airport Retreat

NC211325 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1245 GMT 21 Jun 82

[Statement issued by the joint forces Central Command military spokesman on 21 June]

[Text] The enemy radio has claimed that the joint forces have retreated north of the [Beirut] airport. This report is false and is broadcast within the framework of the psychological warfare which the enemy is launching. Our forces are in their positions and are in full control of the situation.

ADF Open Road to Transmitter

NC211349 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 21 Jun 82

[Text] The Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF] stationed at the Al-'Arbaniyah transmission station have opened the main road leading to the station's building.

The National News Agency correspondent in Al-'Arbaniyah said the ADF command calls on the station's director, Faruq al-Haj, and officials concerned with operating the station to report to their work as usual. The ADF is guarding the road and will protect the officials.

Soviet Embassy Hit by Shell

NC211443 Paris AFP in English 1434 GMT 21 Jun 82

[Text] Beirut, June 21 (AFP) -- The Soviet Embassy here was hit today by a shell during an exchange of artillery fire, eye-witness reports said. Reliable sources reported a number of casualties but no information was available from the embassy itself.

The embassy, which contrary to custom was unguarded by Lebanese policemen this afternoon, is located on the Al-Mazra'ah coastal road in west Beirut.

Uprooted branches were scattered on the ground before the iron gate of the chancellery, which had been damaged in the blast. A group of militiamen stationed further up the street, told Agence France-Presse the shell fell "right in the middle of the embassy."

20 Dead, 75 Injured in Beirut

NC211657 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 21 Jun 82

[Excerpt] Security reports indicate that artillery shelling resumed this afternoon, particularly in the Khaldah triangle and the surrounding areas. The reports add Israeli warships shelled armed positions that were shelled earlier, especially during the night.

The artillery exchanges have been intensifying from time to time between the Syrians and the Palestinians in Burj al-Barajinah, Sabra, Shatila and the neighboring areas on one side and the Israeli forces in the hills of 'Aramun, 'Aytat, Khaldah and Ash-Shuwayfat on the other.

The reports further indicate that during the day, there were artillery exchanges between Israeli positions in the vicinity of Dayr al-Qamar and Kafr Nabrakh and Syrian artillery positions in the 'Alayh area. It has been reported from 'Alayh that the Israeli forces have taken positions in the town of Rishmayya.

In Ash-Shuf, Israeli forces cut off the Kafr Him-Jisr al-Qad-Qabr Shmun and Kafr Him-ad-Damur roads before noon today to the citizens returning to the south because of the deteriorating security situation.

Shelling today affected Al-Mazra'ah, Burj Abu Haydar, Corniche al-Mazra'ah, Mar Ilyas Street, Al-Hilu barracks, the Soviet Embassy, UNESCO, Ar-Ramlah al-Bayda', Jisr al-Cola, Hayy as-Shullum, Al-Marjah, the vicinity of the airport and Al-Fakihani. A number of people were killed or wounded. There are 2 dead and 10 wounded in Az-Zahra' hospital and 2 dead and 13 wounded in 'Akka hospital. Other information indicates that 10 persons were killed in the Al-Hamra' area when a shell fell on a building. Furthermore, fires broke out in the shelled areas, destroying a number of buildings and cars.

It has been learned from a medical source in Beirut that 20 persons were killed and 75 wounded in Beirut and the southern suburb today.

The armed roadblocks remain in the streets and quarters of the western area, and personnel are examining identity cards and preventing youths from leaving the area. A report from Burj al-Barajinah indicates rescue teams are running into difficulties in entering the area to remove the wounded, because armed men have planted mines on the roads leading to it. Moreover, intensive fire was traded today by Syrian rocket launcher positions and Israeli warships in Khaldah and 'Aramun. A Syrian ammunition dump was hit in (Al-Waydi) area. Four tanks were destoyed in the same area. A rocket fell near the army commander's house in Al-Fayyadiyah. Several shells fell in B'abda causing material damage. Israeli warplanes have carried out reconnaissance flights in Lebanon's airspace.

The Iranian volunteers have taken up psoitions in 'Ayn al-Marj near Mansuriyah Bhamdun.

In another security area, clashes have taken place in Al-Qalamun between members of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party and between the Syrian Intelligence and Fatah Security Squad 17 in which a number of people wre killed or wounded.

Israeli Air Raids Reported

NC221038 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 22 Jun 82

[Text] There has been a new development in the progress of the battles in the mountains. At 1125 [0925 GMT] today, Israeli warplanes violently attacked Syrian positions in 'Alayh, Bhamdun, Suq al-Gharb and Hammana. The aerial bombardment came just a few minutes before the expiration of the deadline set by Israel for the removal of the Palestinians from Beirut and the withdrawal of the Syrian Army from Lebanon.

There are heavy artillery exchanges now in the areas of 'Alayh, Al-Qammatiyah and Suq al-Gharb. Fires are seen raging in many areas. Earlier, Israeli armored units reached Ru'aysat an-Nu'man and are now advancing in the direction of 'Alayh. According to the latest reports, Israeli forces have entered Al-Mansuriyah in the Bhamdun area under a heavy barrage of artillery fire from the Israeli positions in Dayr al-Qamar and Upper ash-Shuf.

Meanwhile, the areas of Al-Mudayrij, Dahr al-Baydar and Bhamdun are coming under violent artillery and rocket bombardment. The southern surburbs [of Beirut], especially the airport road, the Cocody and Burj al-Barajinah are coming under heavy bombardment from land and sea. Fires are seen raging in these areas.

Security sources say antiaircraft positions in these areas have received direct hits.

According to information available to us, the Israeli forces have closed the approaches to the Ash-Shuf district, tightening their control of the area and isolating it from Al-Biqa'.

VOL CITES KHALAF ON ARMY DEPLOYMENT, SYRIA, USSR

NC212229 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2115 GMT 21 Jun 82

[Text] In a statement to the French newspaper LE MONDE to be published tomorrow, Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] has proposed disarmament in west Beirut and the consolidation of the Palestinian strugglers in the four refugee camps located in Beirut's southern suburb -- Sabra, Shatila, Al-Fakihani and Burj al-Barajinah. Abu Iyad said: We will propose this to the National Salvation Council so that it will not accuse us of being responsible for the threat the capital is being subjected to.

Abu Iyad added: I am officially proposing this, and if the Lebanese Nationalist Movement and the Amal movement approve it, we will implement it. He said: Our basic proposal, which constitutes the bottom line in our policy, is Israel's withdrawal 10 km from Beirut, the opening of the Damascus road and the deployment of the Lebanese Army in the western part of Beirut around the camps and not inside them. He emphasized that surrender is out of the question. He continued: If, however, our Lebanese friends and enemies consider that this formula, which is our last concession, is not acceptable, we will propose that we fortify ourselves in our camps to wage the final battle.

Abu Iyad accused the Arabs of participating in the plot. He criticized Syria which, as he put it, got scared. He said: We have resisted the Israeli army more than all the Arab armies and proved that men count more than aircraft and armored vehicles -- an area in which the Israeli army is superior. He said: President al-Asad would have done better by sending 30,000 infantrymen to Lebanon. He expressed his regret over the negative attitude of the Soviet Union and said he could not understand its stand. He said: We got symbolic encouragement. How can the Soviet Union adopt such a negative stand at a time when the United States is considered a party to the battle to this ludicrous [sakhir] point?

Further on Army Deployment

NC211233 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Jun 82

[Text] With regard to the consultations the members of the National Salvation Council have begun to carry out, council members Nabih Birri and Walid Junblatt today met with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to reach an understanding on the way gunmen and weapons should be withdrawn and the Lebanese Army deployed in Beirut.

Some sources have said in this respect that the PLO supports the army's deployment in the capital, as [former] Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam has intimated. The PLO, however, believes that it is preferrable that Israel withdraw from some positions first or at least that it be committed to a timetable for an Israeli withdrawal before anything else is discussed.

AL-WAZZAN, 'ARAFAT DISCUSS SALVATION COUNCIL

NC211941 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Jun 82

[Text] Contacts were intensified tonight in anticipation of the second meeting of the National Salvation Council tomorrow.

A meeting was held tonight which was attended by Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, National Salvation Council members lawyer Nabih Birri and Walid Junblatt and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, who headed a [Palestinian] Resistance delegation including Salah Khalaf, Nayif Hawatimah, Hani al-Hasan and Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid. A review was made of the political and military developments in the Lebanese arena, and tomorrow's meeting of the National Salvation Council was discussed.

Following the meeting, Prime Minister al-Wazzan was content to say that today's meeting was to facilitate the council's work tomorrow.

NATIONAL SALVATION COUNCIL HOLDS SECOND MEETING

NC221022 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 22 Jun 82

[Excerpt] At 1100 today, the National Salvation Council held its second meeting in the Presidential Palace under the chairmanship of Ilyas Sarkis and in the presence of Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and members of the council.

As the prime minister has said, the council's agenda imposes itself but it is known that the council will review the outcome of the contacts held by its members with the Palestinian Resistance and with U.S. envoy Philip Habib on finding outlets to the crisis from which the capital is suffering as a result of the Israeli siege.

SARKIS SPEECH AT SALVATION COUNCIL 20 JUNE

NC211520 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 21 Jun 82

["Text" of speech by President Ilyas Sarkis at the beginning of the National Salvation Council's meeting at the presidential palace on 20 June -- read by announcer]

[Text] It is my view that this meeting is the first practical step in consolidating the Lebanon's unity. While appreciationg your patriotism and loyalty to Lebanon and your realization of the importance of the stage through which we are passing and its effect on the future of the country as a whole, I address myself in particular to Nabih Birri, Bashir al-Jumayyil and Walid Junblatt because of the political, ideological and military strength each of them represents in his own environment.

In light of these considerations and the dangers threatening Lebanon, I found it necessary to meet with you to cooperate and work together so as to overcome the difficulties -- which are many, ramose and intricate -- and to save Lebanon. I have been trying to keep the country united for 6 years. As far as I am concerned, the country's unity is a priority and more important than any other issue. Despite the present status quo among the Lebanese, I have always sought to avoid anything that would consolidate this status. In all my actions, I have acted on the premise that the unity of the Lebanese was a fact. Governments were formed and the public departments and institutions were made to function. Lebanon's contacts with the world were established on this basis and the world dealt with us on this basis as well, despite its flaws which deprived it from the pillars and supports of this cherished unity.

Now that the hour of danger has struck by the Israeli occupation of Lebanon and lest this occupation destroy Lebanon and lest the homeland be lost, national duty behooves me to stress the importance of our meeting today and of subsequent historical meetings because they will enable us to define how this country can be saved.

I will say now that we must keep Lebanon united regardless of the conditions, difficulties and obstacles and that Israeli's occupation of Lebanon must increase our efforts and sacrifices in this regard because there is nothing more precious or important than the unity of Lebanon and the Lebanese vis-a-vis what Lebanon is being subjected to at this moment.

Each of us is required to express his ideas and views. We must be able to define what we have and what we owe. The questions the National Salvation Council must tackle are many and ramose. All of them are important, starting with the Israeli occupation and the danger of an Israeli invasion or destruction of certain areas of Beirut and its suburbs, and ending with enabling the legitimate authority to impose Lebanese sovereignty on every inch of Lebanese territory.

When speaking about sovereignty, it is natural for me to urge all those who have formed military and other forces at the expense of the legitimate authority to place these forces at the disposal of the legitimate authority.

The council's meetings will continue day and night, if necessary. I hope that harmony will prevail among all the conferees so we may be able to overcome the difficulties obstructing our path and to transcent this grave, tragic phase through which we are passing.

SARKIS MEETS HABIB, ADF COMMANDER, ITALIAN ENVOY

NC211058 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 21 Jun 82

[Text] Continuing contacts to rescue the country from its tragedy, President Ilyas Sarkis is now meeting in the Presidential Palace with U.S. envoy Philip Habib, who is accompanied by U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Middle Eastern Affairs Morris Draper and U.S. Ambassador Robert Dillon.

Earlier, President Sarkis met with Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF] commander Brig Gen Sami al-Khatib and the Italian ambassador to Lebanon. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan met with Ministers Nazih al-Bizri, Ali al-Khalil, Mustafa Durnayqah and Marwan Hamadah and reviewed the latest developments and urgent administrative and health measures. During the meeting, the prime minister and Minister Hamadah contacted National Salvation Council members Nabih Birri and Walid Junblatt and discussed the tense situation resulting from the shelling of the capital today before Prime Minister al-Wazzan went to the Republican Palace.

The Italian ambassador gave President Sarkis a written message from the Italian president expressing the Italian Government and poeple's sentiments toward Lebanon and emphasizing Italy's stand of supporting Lebanon and its sovereignty and independence. The Italian president also expressed the hope that the diplomatic efforts, which the Lebanese government is making on all levels will achieve a solution to the current crisis.

SARKIS, AL-WAZZAN, BUTRUS DISCUSS DEVELOPMENTS

NC211545 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 June 82

[Text] Following his meeting with Ambassador Philip Habib, President Sarkis held a meeting with Prime Minister al-Wazzan and Foreign Minister Butrus. Ministers Joseph Skaf, Salim al-Jahil, Khatchik Babikian and Sami Yunis and Deputy Husayn al-Husayni attended part of the meeting.

Following the meeting, which lasted until 1400, Prime Minister al-Wazzan said:

I took part in the meeting which was held with Philip Habib. It was a followup to the current contacts, particularly since the deterioration of the cease-fire. We asked that an end be put to the current shelling of Beirut. Naturally, we follow up in all fields the question of the Israeli occupation, and we are seeking to end this occupation, regardless of the conditions and justifications. Lebanese sovereignty must be restored, regardless of circumstances.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan added: In this regard, His Excellency President Sarkis today contacted His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the Saudi monarch, and stressed this point. He thanked the king for the efforts being exerted and requested even more efforts to help end the occupation and stop any hostile actions against Beirut.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan was asked: Will the National Salvation Council meet tomorrow? He answered: Of course it will. He was then asked: Is there an agenda for the council meeting? He answered: As long as salvation is the main concern, then the agenda imposes itself every moment.

SKAF MEETS SHAM'UN, DISCUSSES ROLE OF ARMY

NC212011 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 21 Jun 82

[Text] Following a meeting with (former) President Camille Sham'un this evening, Defense Minister Joseph Skaf said the meeting touched on the issue of the National Salvation Council in light of the information Deputy Nasri al-Ma'luf conveyed to Sham'un.

Skaf hoped for good results and mentioned the need to unify the Lebanese ranks. He quoted Philip Habib as saying: We cannot unify the Lebanese. They must know their interests and agree on common denominators in order to save their country.

Asked about the army role, Minister Skaf said: The army has been offered the role of representing the legal government and of assuming the security task in the western part [of Beirut], but, so far, the green light has not been given. He said: Unfortunately we are still at the stage of proposals. He added: They [not further identified] should have listened to us a long time ago. Had they heeded, Lebanon would have been spared these ordeals. Skaf added: The army is ready to implement any order, but the officials have not given it its due right. Skaf described the situation as very grave, particularly regarding Beirut.

In answer to another question, Skaf said there have been discussions about the formation of a new Cabinet. Now, however, that the National Salvation Council has met, I believe that the question has been put in abeyance and that the Cabinet will carry on. I have been invited to go to B'abda Palace at 1000 Wednesday, and I do not know why.

SALAM CONTINUES CONTACTS WITH GOVERNMENT, PLO

NC211239 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Jun 82

[Text] At noon today, the Islamic grouping and the national front for the preservation of the south continued their meetings in the house of [former] Prime MInister Sa'ib Salam and reviewed the new developments, particularly in the wake of the Israeli military escalation in the capital and its southern suburb, and the results of the contacts being hastily made to deal with the situation.

This morning, [former] Prime Minister Salam received Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and discussed the developments on the security and political levels as well as the efforts the government is making in these two fields.

Prime Minister Salam had earlier met with [PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser] Hani al-Hasan and then Deputy Malkun Abligasian. He also contacted Nabih Birri by telephone and reviewed the results of the consultations taking place on more than one level to deal with the present situation in Lebanon.

INFORMATION MINISTER HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE

JN202054 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1840 GMT 20 Jun 82

[Text] Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad has stated that the barbaric Israeli aggression against Lebanon was characterized by killing and destruction and expressed the racist and aggressive nature of the Zionist leaders. At a press conference held at the SANA building today, Ahmad said that in this invasion thousands of Lebanese and Palestinian people have been killed and a number of cities, dozens of villages in southern Lebanon and a large part of Beirut destroyed.

Ahmad spoke about the obscurantism launched by the Zionist enemy to cover up its invasion of Lebanon, the relation between this invasion and the Zionist expansionist policy and the statements of the Zionist leaders, which affirm the expansionist and aggressive nature of the Zionist racist entity. He reviewed the creation of the Zionist racist entity, its continued violation of international resolutions and its expansion at the expense of Arab rights. He referred to the Zionist invasion of Lebanon and the lethal U.S. weapons used in this invasion with the aim of expanding, annihilating the Palestinians in Lebanon and wiping out as many Lebanese people as possible.

The minister said: Within this framework, a clash took place with Syrian forces within the Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF] in Lebanon. Our forces confronted the invasion from land and sea. The fierceness of the fighting by Syrian forces and Lebanese-Palestinian forces forced Israel to request a cease-fire. It announced the cease-fire unilaterally 2 hours before Syria or any other side announced it. Our brothers in the PLO had already requested that the two UN Security Council resolutions pertaining to a cease-fire and the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Arab territories be implemented. The minister made it clear that our decision to accept the cease-fire was conditional on Israel's complete withdrawal from Lebanon. He said this Israeli invasion had been planned previously by Israel and the U.S. administration. This is now well-known to all.

The minister said the Israeli invasion harmed peace and security in the region as well as international peace and security. He said those who pushed the region into war do not like peace; they are expansionists and racists. When the UN General Assembly described Israel as a state that does not love peace, it robbed Israel of the main criterion for its UN membership. The UN General Assembly and peoples of the world have affirmed that Zionism is a form of racism that should be confronted by peoples of the world.

During the press conference, which was attended by a large number of reporters, news agency representatives and Arab and radio and television correspondents, Ahmad affirmed that what has occurred in Lebanon cannot be accepted by any peace-loving, freedom-loving or progress-loving person in the world. Everyone in this region must resist this invasion with all available resources. He said history has taught us that invaders have always failed and retreated and that people always defend themselves and their children, who were torn apart limb by limb in Lebanon and Beirut by U.S. bombs. The minister said people's resistance to invaders will inevitably succeed and that the battle Syrian forces fought in the land and skies of Al-Biqa' were not a comprehensive war but a battle imposed on us by the Israeli invasion and its savagery. He said the invasion has increased hatred and rancor in the Middle East and has further ruled out the possibility of just and permanent peace in the region. The responsibility for all this will be shouldered by the Israeli expansionists and their U.S. protectors.

After reviewing the dimensions of the barbaric Israeli invasion and its expansionist, racist aims, the minister answered reporters' questions.

Answering a question on Syria's acceptance of a conditional cease-fire, the minister said: One day before Israel's cease-fire decision, Syria announced that it did not object to a cease-fire based on a comprehensive Israeli withdrawal. This announcement was published during President Hafiz al-Asad's meeting with U.S. envoy Philip Habib. The minister said the condition for Israel's comprehensive withdrawal from Lebanon is still valid and that the invading forces must withdraw completely from Lebanese territory. He said the present situation has several possibilities, but we will not accept any argument or compromise about the withdrawal.

Answering another question, the minister affirmed Syria's belief that Lebanon is an Arab country through its language, history and fate. He said we do not accept any change in Lebanon's geographic or demographic nature. This has been clear since the time we agreed to use our offices to carry out a noble and humanitarian task to stop the bloodshed and the massacre of Arab people in Lebanon.

Answering another question, the minister said: Syrian forces entered Lebanon through free Syrian decision, at the request of the Lebanese legitimacy and by an Arab summit resolution. They did not enter Lebanon by an Israeli or foreign decision. As they entered Lebanese territory and offered sacrifices for the sake of the Palestinian and Lebanese brothers, so will they leave.

Answering a question on press reports that Syria rejected Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis' request to withdraw Syrian forces from Lebanon and whether these reports are true, the minister said: We received, through the ADF commander, an Israeli ultimatum to withdraw our forces from Beirut. As you know, we rejected the Israeli ultimatum and used our media to announce this. Two days later, we received a request, purporting to be from Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis, in which he asked us to withdraw our forces from Beirut. However, and as you know, Israeli tanks are besieging and watching Ba'abda Palace and occupy other Lebanese areas and a number of Beirut suburbs. We were and still are convinced this request was dictated to the president under the shadow of the Israeli occupation forces. Therefore, Syrian forces cannot withdraw in this way under the shadow of Israeli artillery. The minister added: When the free-willed Lebanese legitimacy requests anything there will be no Israeli occupation soldiers in Lebanese territory or at the gate of Ba'abda Palace.

Asked about the possible success of Philip Habib's mission in resolving this crisis, the minister said: We hope all states and peoples, particularly those who are able to impose their will on the Israeli occupation forces, will exert their efforts and take part in efforts toward the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon and all occupied Arab territories. We also hope all those who exert their efforts within this framework will succeed.

The minister was asked: Does this mean Syria cannot withdraw its forces from Lebanon before the withdrawal of Israeli forces or whether Syria's withdrawal is arguable? The minister replied: Syrian forces entered Lebanon to implement a pan-Arab, noble and humanitarian mission. We have announced repeatedly that as soon as this mission is concluded our forces will withdraw from Lebanon. The minister said: We appreciate President Ilyas Sarkis, respect him and bear with him great suffering. We will remain at his side and at the side of our Lebanese brothers in general regardless of their factions and beliefs, and at the side of the Palestinians until the last Israeli soldier withdraws from Lebanon.

Asked if there is a definite timetable for Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon, the minister said: We want an immediate withdrawal.

The minister was asked to evaluate the stands of the USSR and the Arab states. He said: Arab solidarity is a basic, strategic part of our general policy. We endeavored and continue to do so in order to realize the minimum Arab solidarity and to develop this minimum. The stands of the Arab states have been different. The Steadfastness and Confrontation Front states have stood firmly at our side. We are working for an Arab meeting on a summit level or on Arab foreign ministers level, because the situation demands joint Arab action. During all their summits since 1974, the Arabs have been unanimous that the battle with the Israeli occupation forces is a pan-Arab battle. Therefore, the commitment to this battle must also be an Arab commitment. In other words, we are active on the level of the Arab homeland with the aim of convening an urgent summit or a meeting of Arab foreign ministers, because we and our nation want a pan-Arab commitment to the pan-Arab battle. As for the USSR, it is a faithful friend to Syria, the Palestinians and the just Palestinian cause in general. It has supported the just Arab cause in all international forums and is standing at our side in our efforts to ward off the killing of our people and the destruction of our houses and to protect our men, women and children from the death we witness now in Lebanon at the hands of invading Israeli forces.

The minister said: We have a strategic friendship treaty with the USSR. On our part, we will always endeavor to promote this treaty and deepen it in various fields.

Answering a question on the reasons behind Syria's moves to raise the level of its relations with the USSR to the level of a strategic alliance, and whether the treaty of friendship and cooperation has become insufficient, the minister said: Syria's relations with the USSR became very good in the mid-1950's. These relations gradually developed and reached the level of a treaty of friendship and cooperation with the USSR. Such great and expanded friendship should continuously develop in all fields, because we have joint interests with the Soviet people in this development. Basically, we have the joint interest of confronting the strong U.S. presence in occupied Palestine. A strategic alliance exists between the United States and Israel, and the most advanced American-made weapons and military equipment is tested on us, the Arabs, by the Israeli leadership as has been done over the past days. Therefore, we do not want any ceiling for our friendship and cooperation with the USSR.

On the strategic alliance between Syria and the USSR, the minister said: When the alliance is signed with the USSR -- an issue which is desired by us -- we will publish the terms of this alliance and the answer will be very clear then. Basically, I have said we are endeavoring to deepen and expand our friendship with the USSR.

The minister said: We appreciate friendship and know how to respect our friends. At the same time, we know our enemies and can differentiate between our enemies and friends in a very good way. We have not committed aggression against anyone; we have not killed thousands of other people as has been done in the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, we have not dropped cluster and phosphorous bombs to penetrate the bodies of children. These bombs tore the bodies of our children apart in Lebanese cities and Palestinian camps. The minister added that we will endeavor to stop this barbarism with all available means. If there was silence from the world, those who suffer, fight and offer blood to protect themselves, their people and country cannot but cry aloud, not from their inability but out of their anger. This anger of the Arab masses will define the future of this region, because this future can be defined by its people and not by the defeatists who collude with the enemy.

Asked about the disengagement forces to be stationed in Lebanon, the minister said: We wish success for all those who cooperate with us in expelling the invaders from Lebanon and the rest of the occupied Arab territories. Certainly, cooperation between the two superpowers within the United Nations and the Security Council will end in a positive result in this regard.

Answering a question on whether Syria, by accepting the cease-fire, obtained a promise from U.S. envoy Philip Habib that Israel would not advance in Lebanon, the minister said: Israel's unilateral decision on a cease-fire meant that it would not advance even a single inch in Lebanese territory. This was clear to us, to Philip Habib and to the whole world. The minister was asked: Will Syrian forces abide by the cease-fire if Israel moves to liquidate the Palestinians in Beirut? The minister said: Since the cease-fire announcement, Syrian forces in Lebanon have been committed to it. However, Syrian forces in Beirut are being subjected to cease-fire violations by Israel and come under shelling in Beirut, its suburbs and heavily populated areas in Beirut. These Syrian forces have orders to answer Israel's violation of the cease-fire and its shelling of the Syrian, Palestinian and Lebanese forces. Syrian forces are fighting hand in hand alongside Palestinian and Lebanese forces and make their decisions in coordination with the command of the joint Palestinian-Lebanese forces in Beirut.

The deployment of invading forces in Beirut and its suburbs and the rest of Lebanese territory cannot allow the cease-fire to be stable. If we add to this the Zionist leaders' expansionist and aggressive appetite, the continued respect for a cease-fire from the Israeli side becomes a strange thing.

Answering another question, the minister said the cease-fire decision is between Israel on the one hand and the Lebanese, Palestinians and Syrians on the other. He said: There were two cease-fire decisions: one with the Syrians and the other with the Palestinians. Both were issued on the same day. The United Nations was informed of these two cease-fires. Furthermore, the PLO leadership accepted the cease-fire 2 days before it was established on 11 June 1982.

Asked whether an agreement was reached with the Iranian delegation concerning the arrival of Iranian regular forces in Syria, the minister said: Syria has repeatedly announced that it welcomes any Arab from any country and any aid that can be sent to the Lebanese and Palestinian brothers. Hence, we welcomed the Iranian delegation to send volunteers to fight in Lebanon alongside the Syrians, Lebanese and Palestinians. We thanked the Iranian Islamic revolution for its stand and consider it a brotherly, courageous and sincere stand in defense of the Arab people and territory.

Answering a question on Syria's sacrifices in its confrontation of the Israeli invasion and the effectiveness of the Soviet weapons in our armed forces, the minister said: We have had and still have great confidence in the weapons possessed by our armed forces. These are mainly Soviet weapons. In the past, and this time also, we fought efficiently and courageously with these weapons and inflicted on the enemy losses that have not been few in both men and materiel, as the Israeli invasion commanders have admitted. Naturally, we offered sacrifices in men and materiel. The Syrian military spokesman always referred to these losses. We lost martyrs, and many of our soldiers were wounded. We pay homage to our martyrs and salute wounded Syrians, who fought heroically to stop the Israeli invasion forces.

PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL FRONT ISSUES STATEMENT

JN191805 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1617 GMT 19 Jun 82

["Text" of statement issued on 19 June by the Central Command of the Progressive National Front in Syria addressed to the Arab masses on the dimensions of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon]

[Text] O citizens, O sons of our Arab people. In the past 2 weeks the Arab masses have been following with apprehension and pain the news of the invasion carried out by the Zionist enemy in southern Lebanon, which began on 6 June. The enemy prepared for this invasion by an intensive artillery and air force bombardment. The enemy dropped its bombs and fired villages, camps and cities, destroying houses and entire residential areas in Beirut, Sidon and Tyre. The enemy also destroyed a large number of Lebanese villages and Palestinian camps. This enemy exposed its reality to the entire world: that it is only a fascist, terrorist and criminal enemy that does not hesitate, in achieving its objectives, to harm holy sites and shrines. This enemy has been previously described by colonialist and imperialist circles as the pearl of the Orient in the various civilized cultural and humanitarian spheres. This enemy's invasion of southern Lebanon put Israel in its normal place in the world: a leading hotbed of international terrorism and a distinguished inhuman, fascist and racist entity.

The militant sons of our Palestinian and Lebanese peoples have fought heroically to defend the cause and the homeland, inflicting heavy losses in lives and equipment on the enemy. Although enemy forces managed to reach the outskirts of Beirut and besiege it because of the aggressive U.S. war machine in its hands, they were faced by the main stronghold of the Arab nation's steadfastness: our valiant armed forces. Thus, the enemy failed to achieve its objectives in the operational areas of our forces despite its hard effort. It threw into the battle four armored divisions, in addition to hundreds of the most modern U.S. warplanes.

In spite of all this, the enemy did not succeed in advancing on the axes of our forces' positions -- these forces that are determined not to move a single inch -- and will only do so over the dead bodies of our valiant fighters, the heroic men of the brave armed forces.

The Central Command of the Progressive National Front met recently and reviewed developments of the combat operations between our armed forces and Zionist enemy forces. The command failed to make a distinction between the fighters and the various army crops because they all fought heroically and unselfishly.

In the name of our people and the masses of our nation, we greet the bold men of our armed forces who made vows to the people and translated their vows into action and heroism, thus meeting the anticipation of the people's pride and the homeland's vigor.

O citizens, after Egypt's abandonment of the confrontation with the Zionist enemy in implementation of the Camp David agreements and the Egyptian-Israeli treaty, Arab Syria announced that the balance between us and the Zionist enemy was largely upset. Syria also announced that when we talk about the strategic balance between the Arab nation and the Zionist enemy, we specifically mean the balance between Syria and Israel. This issue was further clarified under the deteriorating Arab conditions.

We have announced and frequently stressed that the achievement of our short-term objectives of liberating the occupied Arab territories and restoring the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate rights are linked to the accomplishment of a stategic balance between Syria and the Zionist enemy. We have worked and are still working with all our efforts to bring about this strategic balance in the various political, economic and military spheres and in all other areas, such as further developing our country, increasing its capabilities and promoting our Arab and international activities.

We have said and reiterated that a war, if it takes place with the current imbalance with the enemy, will never realize our aims. Therefore, a war that could achieve our aims is one that we ourselves choose and whose time and place are fixed by us and not by the enemy. However, if we fight the enemy, we will confront it with all our resources and will not spare our efforts, material wealth or the blood of our sons. We will fight with honor and courage and will shoulder our full responsibilities, regardless of the consequences. This is what we have done and what we are doing now in the Lebanese plains and mountains.

Another point must be made clear. Our army was not sent to Lebanon to confront Israel from there or to declare war against Israel from Lebanon. It is unreasonable that we should leave the Golan in front of us with every inch of it being studied and surveyed by us and fight the enemy from Lebanon. We did not go to Lebanon to fight Israel from there, and we did not decide the time and place of the war. The conditions necessary for the Arab war of liberation, which will ensure the phased aims of the Arab nation, have not been made available. For these reasons, Arab Syria agreed to the cease-fire decision, which went into effect at 1200 on 12 June, on the basis of Israel's complete withdrawal from all Lebanese territory. This decision was taken after the PLO agreed to the cease-fire on 5 June following UN Security Council Resolution 508 calling for a cease-fire. The PLO also agreed to the cease-fire following the issuance of UN Security Council Resolution 509 on 7 June.

The cease-fire was reached after the enemy failed to realize its aims of cutting the Damascus-Beirut highway at any of the three war axes: the Shab'a-Al-Masna' axis, Shtawrah axis or the Al-Baruk-Al-Mudayrij in Dahr al-Baydar. The enemy paid a high price in its attempts to attain these targets. If the enemy had realized this aim, Mount Lebanon, including the south, would have been besieged by Israeli forces. This siege would have been laid around our forces, the Lebanese nationalist forces and the Palestinian Resistance. Since it could not realize its aims, thanks to the heroism of our forces and sons in the armed forces, the enemy violated the cease-fire near Beirut and was able, due to a weak loophole and the presence of its friends in eastern Beirut, to reach the Ba'abda area and contact the isolationists in the eastern sector and besiege western Beirut.

Today, our heroic soldiers in Beirut are fighting in the same trench with the Palestinian fighters and with the strugglers of the Lebanese pan-Arab and nationalist parties.

O Arab brothers. The criminal aggression against our people in Lebanon is at once a U.S. and Israeli aggression. The United States planned, supported and protected this aggression. It was not satisfied with giving Israel its most advanced and effective weapons but has offered Israel military and political cover. A number of sources has confirmed that the United States knew about the aggression. It helped in planning and implementing this aggression, and it is now attempting to exploit events to realize its aims and strategy. The Israeli aggressors, and behind them the United States, intended to achieve a number of aims as a result of this criminal invasion. They include:

1. Striking at Arab Syria in its capacity as a bastion of steadfastness and confrontation against Zionism and Israel on the one hand and a bastion of the Arab liberation movement against imperialism and reactionaries on the other. The United States returned to the Arab region after As-Sadat's treason and with it returned the U.S. plots hostile to the Arab nation. These plots are aimed at ending the Arab-Israeli dispute in the interest of Zionism, the solution of regional issues such as the Lebanese problem and at besieging the Arab liberation movement and supporting the rightist and reactionary trends and regimes in the Arab region. U.S. plots stumbled with Syria's strong opposition. Many U.S. officials have admitted that Syria is preventing the implementation of their policy in the Middle East. Therefore, striking Syria before it completes its preparations is an important aim of U.S. policy, which is allied to and identical with the policy of international Zionism and Israel.

2. To strike at the Palestinian Resistance, considering it a revolutionary vanguard of the Palestinian Arab people, weaken it and divest it from its strong weapon -- the appropriate land -- in order to mass its forces in front of the occupied territory. It is today in southern Lebanon as it was in eastern Jordan yesterday in an attempt to expel it from Lebanese territory as the agent King Husayn expelled it in black September of 1970.

3. To strike at the Lebanese Nationalist Movement and its pan-Arab and militant revolutionary forces in order to tip the balance in favor of the rightists and enable them to politically dominate the fraternal Lebanese people. This is in addition to many other objectives, such as the attempt to rescue their agent Saddam Husayn from falling under the blows of the valiant Islamic revolution in Iran and the attempt to raise the morale of U.S. agents and reactionaries in the region. What we hear daily from Husayn's information media in Amman is clear evidence of this. Another objective is the attempt to weaken the Arab liberation and progressive movement's forces, which are part of the international liberation and progressive movement, by striking at some of this movement's progressive forces and fortified citadels in the Middle East. The aggression also aims at returning the foreign and U.S. Armed Forces to the Arab countries as a form of occupation and colonialism under the guise of the multinational forces.

Arab brethren everywhere. We once believed the Arab states could differ on many issues, but could only be in agreement toward Zionism and Israel. We used to accept the minimum level of Arab solidarity -- a unified stand toward Zionism and Israel. Out of past experiences we managed to maintain this minimum level. However, in this predicament most states of the Arab nation stood silent, gloating or conspiring. Thus, we were assured of the important idea that America's friends are Israel's friends and America's agents are Israel's agents. Didn't As-Sadat begin by declaring his friendship with the United States? Didn't he give them 99 percent of the cards of the political solution? Shortly thereafter he became a friend of Israel. Several times he called terrorist Begin "my dear friend." Cairo said, and unfortunately still says, nothing can influence Egypt's friendship with Israel. During the past days we have even heard unprecedented insolence. Some quarters shed false tears over the Palestinians and the Palestinian Revolution. They were the best friends of America and its agents in the region, thus ridiculing the peoples' memory, intelligence and understanding. To them we say those who support the Palestinian Revolution should stand against America and fight against its schemes. Those who act in solidarity with the Palestinian Revolution and the Palestinian people support Arab Syria, which was and is still linked with the Palestinian Revolution by ties of fraternity in blood and struggle.

For 34 years Syria has been placing all its funds, men, economy and politics at the service of Palestine and along the road toward the liberation of Palestine for the sake of restoring the Palestinian people's pan-Arab rights.

Solidarity with the Palestinian people should not be words blared out by radios, but is a responsibility and tangible material sacrifices. Let everyone know that our people in Arab Syria, whose martyrs' blood mixed with the blood of their brother Palestinians in every area, particularly in Lebanon, will not relinquish their responsibility. Arab Syria, with its impact, strength and people's faith, will continue to form a fortified citidel for the Palestinian Revolution and the Palestinian people. This is the road we have chosen, and this is our pan-Arab and principled commitment toward every struggle in the valiant Palestinian Revolution.

Masses from the ocean to the Gulf: fight the U.S. interests in your countries. Destroy the U.S. interests and struggle with all means against U.S. interests and institutions. By doing so, you will be with the Palestinian Revolution. Thus, you will prove that the Arab nation, Arab masses and Arab interests are not represented by many rulers of Arab countries.

Brother compatriots in Syria, brother fighters in the Palestinian Revolution, brother strugglers in the Lebanese nationalist forces. The front of friends is broad and wide, led by the masses of our nation from the ocean to the Gulf. These struggling masses are aware that we, in this area, are fighting in defense of the Arab nation's honor, dignity and history. We are fighting in defense of the Arab nation's presence, future and right to live. We greet the masses of our Arab nation, who have declared their wrath over the defeatism of their rulers. We also greet the thousands of Arab volunteers who rushed to participate in the battle of honor and dignity.

We also greet the front of friends, freedom and liberation in the world and the socialist bloc countries, led by the Soviet Union, the loyal friend of our people and nation and the strong supporter for our struggle and right. The Soviet Union has continuously sided with the Arab nation's issues, particularly in the field of its struggle against the Zionist enemy. The Soviet Union has supplied us with arms and stood at our side supporting us and defending our issues on all levels. The friendship and cooperation treaty between Syria and the Soviet Union is only a step along the road of cooperation, friendship and joint struggle between the two countries.

Proceeding from our national and pan-Arab principles and out of our eagerness to preserve our pan-Arab and national interests, we will develop and promote this friendship in order to achieve a strategic alliance between Syria and the Soviet Union, the friend of peoples and the strong defender of these people's interests and principles.

This front of friends is strong and broad. If Israel and the front of its friends have managed to attain some of their objectives by means of aggression against Lebanon, we say that what happened is not the end of our battles. We will struggle with all our efforts and strength to drive away the invaders and restore the usurped rights. Greetings to the states of the pan-Arab Steadfastness and Confrontation Front for their pan-Arab stand supporting us in our just pan-Arab struggle against the criminal invaders. Greetings to the brave Iranian Islamic revolution, which has sent a number of its son strugglers to fight alongside our armed forces to drive away the Zionist invaders and liberate Palestine. The armed forces of this friendly Islamic revolution were prevented by Baghdad ruler Saddam Husayn, through his war against it, from coming to help us at the time of need and difficulty. Despite all this, vanguards of fighter volunteers have arrived in our country to participate as much as possible in the honor of struggling alongside the Arab nation.

The Progressive National Front greets our valiant people in this country and is proud of the high patriotic spirit demonstrated by our people in every position. This front records with all appreciation and respect the stand of our brave leader Hafiz al-Asad, president of the republic and leader of the Progressive National Front. The front is also proud of the president's leadership and wisdom.

Brother strugglers. At difficult times in particular we are in need of vigilance and caution. Let us be vigilant while we are fighting our enemy, and let us be also vigilant against the dirty psychological warfare being launched by agent voices. Let us be wary about the enemy's every move and word. Let us intensify our strikes at the enemy and continue all forms of struggle to drive away the invaders and achieve the objectives of the glorious Arab nation.

[Signed] The Central Command of the Progressive National Front in Syria on 19 June 1982

CABINET MEETS TO REVIEW RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

JN211952 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 21 Jun 82

[Text] The Cabinet met this morning under Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Kasm. The Cabinet discussed the current situation in Lebanon and in the Arab and international arenas in light of the results of the continued Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

After reviewing the course of military and political events as well as their developments, the Cabinet conducted a comprehensive assessment of the general situation and the war efforts offered by Syria, the Palestinians and Lebanese nationalist forces. The Cabinet also conducted a detailed assessment of the situation in Arab countries that existed before the Israeli invasion and of the current nature of this situation. The assessment also touched on the topics covered by U.S. envoy Philip Habib's talks in Damascus, his current activities in the region, USSR President Leonid Brezhnev's letter to President Hafiz al-Asad and the outcome of the visits to Damascus of the USSR deputy foreign minister and the first deputy commander in chief of the USSR Air Defense Forces. The assessment also covered a number of Arab and international contacts.

After analyzing all current and anticipated military and political realities, it was asserted that the U.S.-Israeli direct military intervention in Lebanon was and still is a grave and multipurpose intervention that is placing the region on the verge of an all-out war that might erupt any moment. It was also emphasized that the U.S. plan is aimed at deploying the Israeli military machine after doubling its equipment, modernizing and mobilizing it to the farthest extent to wreck the unified national will in Lebanon and to eliminate the military and political presence of the Palestinian Revolution. The plan is also aimed at creating radical changes in the Arab positions of steadfastness, diminishing the forces of the liberation movement represented by Syria, the states of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front and the Islamic revolution in Iran and at achieving a decisive step in favor of the capitulatory trend in this region.

The analysis concludes by asserting that Syria -- whose armed forces have demonstrated efficiency on all battlefields and which fought sincerely and honorably with the Palestinians and Lebanese nationalist forces, which proved to be steadfast and loyal to their issues -- is the sole Arab country shouldering the burden of confrontation against the enemy. Syria considers the battle as continuing so long as Israel continues to occupy 1 inch of Lebanon. Syria, along with the PLO and the brave Lebanese nationalist forces, enjoys a common destiny against the policy of subjugation and faits accomplis.

The Cabinet asserted that the achievement of Arab solidarity demands a strong feeling of responsibility and adherence to the pan-Arab commitment and the elimination of all elements of fragmentation and division, which enable the United States and Israel to interfere and control the fate of the region. These elements have painfully caused the absence of Egypt, Iraq and Jordan from the battle. This absence is taking place under different pretexts and excuses, but it serves one clear objectives: to leave Syria, the PLO and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement alone in confronting the United States and Israel. This is, naturally, a fact that constitutes a national catastrophe, although the anti-Arab propaganda is helplessly trying to hide this fact, camouflage and distort it.

In this regard, the Cabinet stressed that the implementation of Syria's plan of defending the Palestinian Revolution, safeguarding Lebanon's national will and forcing Israel to withdraw from all of Lebanon demands that every single Arab become aware of what is happening both openly and secretly and realize the dimensions of the wide-scale conspiracy, particularly its determination to destroy the lofty position of the sacred Arab cause, which is represented in the confrontation of the Israeli invasion by Syria, the PLO and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement.

Also in this regard, the Cabinet emphasized that the deep and strong cooperation between Syria and the USSR, which is a permanent base of the struggle against the powers of agression, and the promotion of this cooperation between the two friendly states will remain a constant basis that gives the battle between the Arabs on one side and America and Israel on the other its real score in this region and elsewhere.

The Cabinet praised what has been and is still being accomplished by the genuine and high nationalist spirit of the Syrian Arab people, who have determined to continue the battle with firmness and strength under the wise and valiant leadership of militant President Hafiz al-Asad regardless of all sacrifices, efforts and blood, so this homeland and the entire Arab nation may remain glorious, proud and capable of practicing its free will anytime it desires.

In conclusion, the Cabinet expressed its appreciation of the sacrifices offered in the battle by the Syrian Armed Forces and of the heroism of the officers, NCO's and soldiers as well as of their steadfastness in the face of the enmy in all battles the have waged. The Cabinet saluted the souls of the glorious martyrs of the Syrian, Palestinian and Lebanese forces, those martyrs who had their blood spilled over the soil of Lebanon. This blood, the Cabinet stressed, will remain a bright torch for the battles of freedom in the land of the Arabs.

YAR CHIEF OF STAFF ARRIVES WITH MESSAGE 21 JUNE

JN211651 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 21 Jun 82

[Text] Col 'Abdallah al-Bushayri, YAR Armed Forces chief of staff, arrived in Damascus this afternoon at the head of a military delegation on a visit to Syria during which he will convey a message to President Hafiz al-Asad from YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

He was met at the airport by Gen Hikmat ash-Shihabi, chief of staff of the army and armed forces; Maj Gen Hasan Turkmani, director of the political administration; and 'Abdallah Barakat, YAR ambassador in Damascus.

Speaking upon arrival, Colonel al-Bushayri told a correspondent of the Voice of the Armed Forces radio that the YAR stands alongside Syria and the Palestinian and Lebanese people to face the Zionist enemy, particularly its current invasion of Lebanese territory.

'SENIOR U.S.' SOURCE ON BEGIN-REAGAN TALKS

TA212028 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1958 GMT 21 Jun 82

[Telephone report by correspondent to Washington Dan Raviv]

[Text] The details I am giving now about the talks between the prime minister and President Reagan are based on a briefing by a most senior U.S. source at the White House; they are not based on a briefing by an Israeli party since such a briefing has not yet taken place.

There are several points: The talks were defined by the U.S. source as open and relevant. It seems there was one point of friction between the two men, when President Reagan reported to Begin about what he had heard from Arab leaders. It appears that Israel and the United States agree on the need to strengthen Lebanon and President Reagan has absolutely accepted -- and, according to the U.S. source he unequivocally believes -- the prime minister's declaration that Israel will pull out of Lebanon.

As for the issue of the multinational force, President Reagan made it clear the United States -- according to his definition -- is far less enthusiastic about sending troops to the region. Nevertheless, President Reagan said the United States realizes there must be a buffer zone formed by a multinational force in spite of the fact -- according to the U.S. source -- that there are differences of opinion regarding the effectiveness of the UN force. However, there is agreement that the UN force by itself is not enough to defend the region. President Reagan said he would make a decision regarding the force which would be the most effective as far as U.S. interests are concerned. He explained to Prime Minister Begin that the United States is not enthusiastic about sending troops to the Middle East because of the problems this may cause in the United States.

There is also understanding between Israel and the United States regarding the withdrawal of all forces from Lebanon. The senior U.S. source said there is agreement regarding the withdrawal of both Syria and the PLO.

An interesting point is that the issue of arms supplies to Israel was not even raised in the talk between the prime minister and the President. However, the question of U.S. arms supplies to moderate Arab countries was raised and it appears that President Reagan sought the prime minister's agreement on this point.

In conclusion, it was noted that the United States hoped, through President Reagan today, that a speedy development [as heard] and recovery of the Middle East and Lebanon would occur which would lead to peace treaties between Israel and Lebanon and, perhaps -- according to President Reagan's remarks -- even to broadening the entire basis for peace talks in the region.

If we are to pass judgment on the basis of these points -- in spite of President Reagan's gloomy expression while photographs were being taken during the talk -- then there is agreement between Israel and the United States on mnay points, this is all from the White House, from the briefing by a most senior official in the U.S. administration.

U.S. Position on Withdrawal

TA212251 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 2205 GMT 21 Jun 82

[Excerpt] The U.S. administration believes Israel should not withdraw from Lebanon at once or, at least, not until the following demands have been met: Lebanon has been strengthened, all foreign forces have been withdrawn from Lebanon and a multinational force is established which would defend a buffer zone between Lebanon and Israel. This emerges from the talks between President Reagan and Prime Minister Menahem Begin at the White House today.

Sources in the prime minister's entourage this evening said threats had not been made against Israel in the course of the meeting between the two leaders. However, there were difficult [nuqshim] moments in the talk when President Reagan leveled criticism at steps adopted by Israel.

SHARON SAYS IDF OBJECTIVES IN LEBANON ACHIEVED

TA211704 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1650 GMT 21 Jun 82

[Text] The defense minister has said that we have broken the PLO's back in southern Lebanon and in central Lebanon, in the direction of Beirut, and the IDF has attained its objectives. However, the achievement of the objectives did not give immunity to PLO terrorism. Ari'el Sharon was speaking at a ceremony at the presidential residence in Jerusalem where the Israeli security prize was presented. The PLO's command posts and bases wherever they are will encounter us with all their might, the defense minister said, adding: The price we paid in the Peace for Galilee Operation was dear but inevitable. You, members of the defense establishments, provided the best means and tools which have left the world astonished in the light of our successes.

DEFENSE MINISTER DISPUTES CASUALTY FIGURES

LD212244 London BBC Television Network in English 0710 GMT 21 Jun 82

[Interview with Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon on the weekly "Panorama" program with Tom Mangold, BBC television reporter, in Jerusalem on 21 June -- recorded]

[Text] [Question] Why did you authorize the use of artillery and air strikes against civilian targets knowing that hundreds, perhaps thousands of innocent people would die?

[Answer] I think that that is an exaggeration. we ordered our troops and we paid a heavy price in dead and wounded in order to avoid any harm to civilian population. As a matter of fact...

[Question -- interrupts] Thousands of civilians have been killed; thousands have been wounded, hundreds of thousands are homeless...

[Answer] I heard these stories. For instance I heard the story that...I was listening yesterday to British minister of foreign affairs, which I say was not very friendly, and not very well-informed about the situation. I hope that in other places he is informed better. People who were talking about 600,000 refugees, all the population which is in the area that we are controlling now is less than 600,000. If you ask me what is the number of refugees, I believe maybe between, around 60,000. I believe that the figures of civilians who have been killed, I would say in the area which is within our hands -- hundreds. And every casualty is a tragedy.

[Question] General Sharon, why did you authorize the use of artillery and air strikes against innocent civilians?

[Answer] We never ordered any shooting or shelling against civilian populations. That is propaganda that you are doing now...

[Question -- interrupts] Are you saying that no innocent people have died?

[Answer] Oh, I never said that.

[Question] Are you saying that there were no air strikes or shelling of civilian targets?

[Answer] There was shelling of terrorists only after trying to take these places without any air strikes and any artillery; we tried, we talked to them with loudspeakers, we sent messengers, we threw leaflets in order to tell them that we are going to occupy the places. Well, nothing really helped. We did it only in those places where there were terrorists. You have to know that many of the deaths, the casualties that we had were as the result of our (?strain), and I would like to say that I don't know I'm sure, if there is any nation upon earth, any army upon earth, that would have behaved the way we behaved. Most of the casualties are a result of our strain, and our attempt to capture these strongholds without air attacks and without artillery fire. And you can go now to Tyre, you can go now to Sidon, and you will find there whole streets, whole quarters that were not damaged at all. Only places with terrorists...

[Question -- interrupts] Some areas of Tyre have been destroyed, Ad-Damur has been virtually razed to the ground and the center of Sidon is a mess.

[Answer] It's a pity that about 5 years ago when Ad-Damur was destroyed by the PLO terrorists, it was destroyed then and the Christian population were massacred, their women were raped by the PLO terrorists, I never heard that you were asking these questions.

I would like to tell you one thing. We used [shelling] only in the last phase, after suffering heavy casualties, after making all the attempts to try and convince the terrorists to move out from the area, as a matter of fact everything that we promised we did.

[Question] What did you actually want to do to the PLO, to its military structure, and to its political structure?

[Answer] What we wanted to do, we have done. We destroyed their infrastructure, we caused them heavy casualties, very heavy casualties, we captured a (?cache) of arms, artillery rocket launchers, tanks, light weapons, ammunition and everything one can imagine and can find we captured, and we believe we managed to minimize their capability or efficiency for a long time.

[Question] Is the PLO finished as a fighting force?

[Answer] No, not yet. You have to understand that there are still in the area of Beirut, thousands of Palestinian terrorists, though in a difficult situation.... They are there, we have to know that their headquarters are there. And I believe that's a matter of fact not only a threat to Israel, it's a threat to the peace in general, but that it's also a threat to Europe. But I would like to...

[Question -- interrupts] Do you want to go into west Beirut, because you seem to be saying that....

[Answer] No, I have not said that.

[Question] If you don't go into west Beirut, won't you leave the command structure of the PLO virtually intact?

[Answer] I can only say one thing, that Beirut -- it's a problem. But it's not our problem, because as about ourselves, we took the necessary steps we needed by having this line [indicates on map], we destroyed all terrorist infrastructure between the line which is needed for the security of our northern border, and the forward line of our troops. Beirut -- it's a problem for us but no less it's a problem for the Free World, and its a problem for Europe.

[Question] Are you then saying, and I find it difficult to interpret this, you are not going into west Beirut?

[Answer] I have not said anything about that. The only thing I can tell you [is that] there are diplomatic efforts done now. We altogether would like to prevent war, to avoid wars, we don't have any intentions to go in any wars. As a matter of fact I told you before we don't have any intentions to going to war with Syria, we wanted to avoid it. And we of course would appreciate every step that will be taken in order to solve this problem. This problem, I would like to emphasize again, is not only our problem, it's a general problem of the world.

[Question] So in what circumstances would you leave the Lebanon?

[Answer] We made it very clear, first of all we don't have any intention whatsoever to stay in Lebanon, we don't...

[Question -- interrupts] Do you have any intention to leave?

[Answer] We don't have any intention to stay in Lebanon. We don't have any wish whatsoever to keep in our hands even one square inch of Lebanese territory, we are not. The Syrians have been occupying Lebanon since January 1976, as a matter of fact I never heard you saying a word about that, the Syrians were occupying the major part of Lebanon since January 1976. But we are not intending to stay in Lebanon. But of course...

[Question -- interrupts] But are you intending to leave?

[Answer] Yes, of course. But only after the needed arrangements will be done here. And what about the arrangement? The arrangements are: First, I would say, we will not accept terrorists in Lebanon. We will not accept any existence of PLO, Palestinian terrorists in Lebanon. We will ask for a multinational force and we believe that there will be countries [which] will join that in order to keep the troops in this area which will give us the needed protection to our civilian population along the northern border, and of course we are going to demand that all the foreign troops will withdraw from Lebanon. And that will include terrorist organizations, the Syrians that have been occupying and of course ourselves.

[Question] And what happens if they don't? What happens if the Syrians don't leave Lebanon?

[Answer] Look, we are facing now I believe the second phase, though the fighting was also not an easy thing. But political discussions are sometimes harder. And though we would like to withdraw from Lebanon as early as possible because we don't have any intention to stay there, but after paying this price, we are going to stand there strongly and firmly until the needed arrangement will be done.

[Question] And if the arrangements don't come about?

[Answer] We will stay.

[Question] Will the Government of Israel negotiate with a disarmed PLO?

[Answer] No, we are not negotiating with the PLO. We made it very clear, the PLO is not part of the negotiations. We are ready to negotiate with the inhabitants, with the Palestinian Arabs, inhabitants of Samaria, Judaea and Gaza District, we have offered them....

[Question -- interrupts] The West Bank and Gaza, yes.

[Answer] You call it the West Bank and Gaza... And we have offered them a solution, though for a transition period. We have offered them a solution never offered to them, not by the Arabs, during 400 years of occupation, not by the British, during 30 years of occupation, not under the Jordanians and Egyptians during 19 years of occupation.

[Question] How can there be a solution to the problem of the Palestinians without involving the PLO?

[Answer] The PLO is not the only and sole representative of the Palestinian Arabs. I believe that after this operation in Lebanon now, there will be people in Samaria, Judaea and Gaza District which will feel less afraid of being murdered or assassinated by the PLO.

[Question] Will they be regarded as stooges and puppets of the Israelis?

[Answer] Why should they be puppets? I think that we would like them to be supporters of Israel. We are looking for is that these are people that do not regard the PLO, terrorism of terrorist organizations as their sole and only representative.

We believe... As a matter of fact we are not looking for collaborations. We are not looking for people who would like us to stay there. I can tell you now frankly, I don't believe there is any Arab in Samaria, Judaea and Gaza District who would like us to stay there. We stay there because it is essential for our security. But not one of them would like us to stay there. But there are among them people who believe in peaceful coexistence with Israel. And the autonomy plan that we offered, gives a kind of startline for a solution.

[Question] Will you leave the West Bank then?

[Answer] No, we are going to keep it. When it comes to security, we will stay there forever.

[Question] Your actions, and I want to ask you a more philosophical questions here, Mr Sharon, your actions have alienated non-Zionist Jews in many parts of the world. And many of them are shocked and dismayed at the ruthlessness of the operation in Lebanon. Are you in any way sad at the death of those qualities of justice and humanity that were to mark the Zionist state since its inception?

[Answer] My dear friend, I think we have shown here in this operation more humanity than in any operation that has been done by the British anywhere upon earth as I remember from the history.

[Question] General Sharon, that is not the perception even here in Israel.

[Answer] Look, I know Israel well, I've been born here, we've been here now for three generations in this country. We have been facing, we have been living with Arabs, we can live with Arabs, we want to live with Arabs, we want to live in peace. We signed a peace agreement with Egypt, we made tremendous concession in order to arrive to this peace. The way that you try to describe our action in our operation in Lebanon I think in our opinion is kind of a shame...

[Question -- interrupts] It's not my description, it's the description by your own commentators here in Israel.

[Answer] Look, Israel is a democracy, and of course people can say... But what is important is not what the people say, what is important is what the facts are. And the facts are that we took all the necessary steps and we paid a very heavy price in order not to harm the civilian population, and that's what we did. And there is no one upon earth who can talk to us the Jews about humanity...no one upon earth.

SHARON INTERVIEWED ON IDF INVASION OF LEBANON

TA181514 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 18 Jun 82

[Interview with Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon by Tel Aviv IDF radio correspondents Yosi 'Abadi and Gad Becker, moderated by Yesha'yahu Ben-Porat, broadcast simultaneously on Tel Aviv IDF radio -- live]

[Text] [Question] We will now proceed to the first question, Mr Minister, a current question -- I think it is a current question: What is happening today in Beirut? Are they still shooting there and, if so, who is shooting whom?

[Answer] As far as we are concerned, there is a cease-fire in Beirut. We initiated the cease-fire after we accomplished our objectives in Lebanon. If there is fighting today in Lebanon or in Beirut, the fighting originates with the terrorists or it is exchanges of fire between Christian forces -- either Phalangist forces or Lebanese Army troops -- and the terrorists or, in certain cases, the terrorists firing at our forces. In general, there is a cease-fire. Regarding Beirut it should be pointed out that the roads leading to Beirut are blocked, both the Beirut-Damascus road or the roads leading northward to the Christian sector or southward. The roads are not blocked to civilian traffic; the city is not under siege. These roads are blocked to terrorist traffic, the movement of terrorist reinforcements toward that area or the reentry of the Syrian Army into Beirut. The IDF is not involved in the Beirut incidents.

[Question] When the terrorists fire at us -- and you said earlier that they may fire at us -- do we return the fire?

[Answer] Yes, this is our clear position. Also, when we announced the cease-fire we reiterated that we would begin the cease-fire but that if fire was directed at our forces we would return the fire. I would also like to add that, as is known, there was a U.S. appeal yesterday for a 48-hour cease-fire. Israel replied that it acceeded to the request, although it actually does not have any reason to take any additional steps because we were the ones who initiated the cease-fire. However, we emphasized that in this cease-fire if fire is directed at the IDF, the IDF will return the fire. Of course, the present situation is in accordance with our decision.

[Question] Are the Syrians in Beirut shooting at our forces?

[Answer] There are no separate Syrian forces in Beirut today; there are the remnants of a Syrian brigade. These remnants are totally mixed in with the terrorists. Generally speaking, if we look at the map of Lebanon or at the cease-fire line between us and the forces opposite us I would say that in the eastern sector -- that is, on the Lebanese-Syrian border, along the eastern border of Al-Biqa', on the separation of forces line between us and the Syrians in Al-Biqa' and along the Zahlah-Beirut road which is the continuation of the Damascus-Zahlah-Beirut road until the area of 'Alayh several kilometers east of Beirut -- there are Syrian forces. The cease-fire with the Syrian forces is in force, except for perhaps some minor Syrian attempts to improve their positions -- we prevent these attempts -- but the cease-fire is in force.

In contrast, from the 'Alayh area and westward -- that is, 'Alayh and its vicinity and the Beirut area -- the forces are mixed. If there are only Syrians in the previous sector I mentioned, then in the 'Alayh-Beirut area there are both Syrians and terrorists. There are some 6,000 armed terrorists in Beirut along with the remnants of their headquarters as well as dispersed remnants of the Syrian forces, but the main element is the terrorist force. In the 'Alayh sector the Syrians are the main force and they are being joined by terrorist forces, with Syrian encouragement and support. Volunteer units from other countries arrived in this sector with the apparent aim of trying to launch terrorist operations -- mining, sabotage -- against our forces.

[Question] Do they come from Syria or from the Lebanese rearguard?

[Answer] No, they come from Syria. They arrive from Damascus, on the road leading from Damascus to Beirut. However, as is known, this road has been blocked by our forces in the eastern suburbs of Beirut. They arrive at the last point where there are Syrians today -- in the 'Alayh area. This is an operation initiated, planned and organized by the Syrians, in collaboration with the terrorist organization and it is designed to prepare terrorist operations from this area against our forces.

[Question] Mr Sharon, earlier you mentioned the U.S. proposal to again cease fire in the Beirut area for 48 hours to attempt, perhaps, to disarm the terrorists in the city. Do you believe there is a real chance the PLO members in Beirut will lay down their arms without fighting?

[Answer] I think a chance should be given for such an attempt. This attempt is in fact designed to give the Lebanese a chance to establish a government, a new and strong government in Lebanon. It is impossible to form a government in Lebanon as long as the Syrians are in Beirut or are threatening Beirut and as long as there are terrorists in Beirut, certainly not as long as the terrorists are armed.

The terrorists are in deep distress in Beirut. Therefore, in my opinion, as long as the terrorists and their commanders in Beirut believe their situation there is dangerous and unclear and resistance is doubtful, there may be a chance. In my opinion, every attempt should be made. If the terrorist forces lay down their arms without fighting, that would be preferable. Therefore, I think that there is room for making this attempt.

Of course, this attempt also entails its risks, because the reference was to 48 hours during which the Lebanese Government must reach a decision. However, let us assume for a moment that it made a decision, that such contacts are possible, then negotiations must begin. The negotiations themselves may be long. These negotiations may indeed go on through a period during which the terrorists will feel secure because there will be no activities then. I would like to emphasize that the Israeli Government, that we are not operating in Beirut. The activities in Beirut are conducted by the Christians. However, they are also not allowed to operate during this period, of course. If this interval lasts for long, then they may certainly reorganize, the terrorist commands may regroup and this will largely increase the cost of handling this question.

[Question] Is there a way to prevent the scenario you are cautioning against?

[Answer] In my opinion, the way to prevent it is to make this a short attempt. If it emerges that the attempt is feasible, then action should be taken; if it emerges that the attempt is not feasible -- the Lebanese Government and army and the Free Christians in northern Lebanon today have the chance of their lives, a chance which will not come again. I think the Americans also realize there are chances here today for the evolution of a new situation.

I would like to emphasize: That is not the reason why we went to war. We did not set out to create a new situation in Lebanon; we set out to strike at the terrorists and destroy their infrastructure. That was the objective of our war. If such a situation emerges -- it is all for the best.

[Question] Who can force the terrorists to lay down their arms? Can the United States do that politically or the Phalangists militarily?

[Answer] The possibility of compelling the terrorists depends on one thing: on their believing they have no chance to resist, that they are incapable of resisting, struggling and holding out. That is the only thing. In my opinion, I do not see any other possibility. There is no question of persuasion here, but one of grasping the situation, of reading the picture. This picture must convince them that they have no chance -- that is the only thing.

Therefore, the Syrians are today rushing terrorist reinforcements to the 'Alayh area in order to activate terrorist forces in the Beirut area to create the impression that there is firm terrorist resistance, to encourage the terrorists in the Beirut area itself to hold out. At the moment, I would say there is some sort of race against time.

[Question] Mr Minister, there is a question which, in my opinion, troubles many people. Let us assume the terrorists lay down their arms -- I say let us assume because this has not yet happened -- what would be the PLO's future in general? Would the PLO then cease to be a terrorist movement as it has been to date?

[Answer] The State of Israel is troubled by the existence of a body which is armed to such an extent as we witnessed in Lebanon. Although we had many reports about what was happening in Lebanon I must say that, although we knew, we were surprised. We were surprised by the vast quantities of weapons, ammunition, sabotage materiel, artillery guns, katyusha-launcher , the number of tanks that were amassed by the terrorists during many years just as we were surprised by the underground systems of entrenchments and bunkers under building, particularly under houses -- we were surprised.

Our objective is clear: to remove this threat. One must understand that Beirut and Lebanon not only served as the place from which terrorist squads set out; all the operations were actually planned there. Sabotage operations to be carried out throughout the world were planned here, against Jews, against Israel, and other countries. This is the place where the Soviet Union actually operated undistrubed, in some sort of a pirate and lawless state, whose ramifications were worldwide but mainly hit Israel and Jews in Europe and in other places. This is our goal and this is the objective we are striving for.

[Question] Mr Sharon, we are talking about the political activity and the tone of this political activity is now set by the Americans. Are there any signs that the United States, through its activity -- we are talking about the PLO laying down its arms but not necessarily about its political dispersal -- is seeking contact or creating direct contact with the PLO?

[Answer] I think there has been a change in the U.S. conception in the last few days. I think they realized there is an opportunity to reach a new political arrangement in Lebanon. I am not saying all the circles advocate this position but it is the position of some circles. However, such opinions are currently heard in the United States. We made it unambiguously clear also when we spoke about a 48-hour cease-fire, that just as we will under no circumstances agree not to react if fire is directed at our forces and just as we did not assume any responsibility for the Christians' activity because we are not responsible for their activity -- we are not ordering them not to operate or to cease operating -- we also announced, within our agreement to the U.S. appeal, that we do not accept any form of negotiations with the PLO. We do not accept it, we will certainly not accept it in the future and we will not hold contacts.

[Question] And what about the Americans?

[Answer] At the moment, I do not see any direct contact. However, there is no doubt that they hold indirect contacts, at present, through the Lebanese Government.

[Question] One of the clauses in the U.S. proposal refers to the Syrians' withdrawal from Lebanon. How is it possible to impose such a move on the Syrians? After all, they are neither besieged nor entrapped in a place on which pressure may be exerted.

[Answer] We regard the Syrian presence in Lebanon as very dangerous. One of the gravest mistakes committed by an Israeli Government was in January 1976 when we accepted the Syrian penetration into Lebanon. We did not initiate this penetration; this penetration was mainly initiated by the Americans.

However, the Israeli Government at the time did not object to it, it even thought that it might lead to pressure on the terrorist organizations. The situation was exactly the opposite and the terrorists organized mainly under cover of the Syrian presence. Therefore, whoever sees the need -- as we do -- that the northern border of the State of Israel should be free of the situation whereby its inhabitants are held hostage by the terrorists; whoever believes as we do that Lebanon must be free of terrorist organizations must understand that the Syrians cannot remain in Lebanon. The Syrians constitute a curtain behind which the terrorists organize. The Syrians constitute an element that prevents the Lebanese from acting against the terrorists. Therefore, our demand on this issue is clear-cut and unambiguous.

When mention is made of the withdrawal of forces, we were the ones who proposed that all forces should withdraw: the terrorist organizations, the Syrians and -- but not in the same breath -- the IDF. Only then -- and even then, I would say -- the withdrawal will take place if the Lebanese are accorded the assistance, the protective curtain of a multinational force -- but under no circumstances the United Nations; the United Nations did not stand the test in any of these situations -- only a multinational force and, in our opinion, with the massive presence of the United States will be effective. Then, it may be -- and I say it may be -- that Lebanon will be able to restore its military strength to enable it to prevent the terrorists from organizing in the future; this is our interest. Therefore, we see a great danger in the Syrian presence in Lebanon and that is why we announced that we see a symmetry in the withdrawal of the forces: the withdrawal of forces should be a general withdrawal of all foreign forces in Lebanon.

[Question] Who will be able to impose such a withdrawal on the Syrians?

[Answer] The chief card in this withdrawal is the very fact of our presence there. Our presence there undoubtedly does not please the Syrians. I want to emphasize: We do not wish to fight the Syrians, we did not want to fight the Syrians, we made every possible effort not to fight the Syrians. Our movement northward, beyond the 45-km line -- this is the 45-km line [Sharon points on the map] -- its objective was to create a threat to the rearguard of the Syrian forces in order to compel them to retreat without fighting.

Today we are in a place which is undoubtedly inconvenient for the Syrians. The Israeli forces are today on the Lebanese-Syrian border while Damascus is within the range of Israeli cannons. This situation is uncomfortable as far as Damascus is concerned; they have a problem. Through our military moves -- and here the IDF revealed its full strength, power, ingenuity, the incomparable daring of its fighters -- and the political will to make very difficult decisions, with this combination of brilliant military moves and daring political decisions we succeeded in creating a situation whereby the Syrians are in a very difficult dilemma. We possess a first-rate bargaining card.

[Question] Earlier you wanted to comment on something.

[Answer] I wanted to say that I frequently meet the soldiers, I see them almost everyday in the field and I saw them when they fought. I think that any people could be proud and envious of what we have. There is not, I think that there is not such a thing as a popular army in any nation; there are some who presume to have a popular army -- we have a popular army. We saw the army of the people earlier. [Sharon refers here to short clips twice interspersed in the interview of soldiers sending greetings to their families]. I think it is most impressive when one sees these men in the field. I know we suffered many casualties. However, it seems to me at all levels efforts were made and are being made also today to see to the soldiers. We set out to wage war to fight terrorism; that was our objective. This is our objective. We are standing at the threshold of a period of political struggle; patience is called for. However, I would nevertheless like to announce, especially to the families, that we have begun releasing reservists and I hope many of them are released and those whom we have just watched sending greetings and voicing their longing to see their wives, girlfriends and children -- I was touched by the words of the soldier who spoke about how much he misses his son, I hope that he will be home soon along with other reservists.

[Question] I thank you, Mr Minister, for the good tidings. In that case, we will go back to our gray questions pertaining to the political campaign and only later we will go over to military and security related questions. There is a political question which arouses a great deal of interest. In earlier interviews you noted that at the time, during your visit to the United States, to Washington, about 1 month ago if I am not mistaken, you warned the two state secretaries [presumably the secretaries of state and defense] of what might happen in our region because of this terrorism -- you mentioned this many times. The question is to what extent and how specifically you told them about the things which are happening now? Namely, were they then aware that if and when such a thing happened the intention would be to have the Syrians and the terrorists withdraw from Lebanon as well as us, if and when we entered Lebanon.

[Answer] There were many talks on this issue. This issue was raised by the prime minister in his talk with the secretary of state and others. The foreign minister spoke about it during his visit and presented our positions. I too had the privilege of expressing these views on numerous occasions. During my last visit to Washington, that was perhaps the main effort, burden and task I undertook on my trip there -- to explain that Israel could no longer tolerate the situation it was experiencing, that we could no longer tolerate the danger of terrorism not only because of the victims -- and we suffered thousands of casualties throughout the years in acts of murder and sabotage, but this was not the only reason -- but mainly because of the danger to the very existence of peace -- and we have now witnessed this, how peace is threatened as a result of acts of terrorism.

Of course, I did not explain or clarify anything about the operational plans. I did not mention the timing or the operational plans -- I did not know them either. However, I made it plain to the Americans that Israel had reached the limit of its ability to hold out under such circumstances and that if the acts of terrorism were to continue -- we appealed to the Americans to exercise their influence to put an end to these acts -- we would be forced to act.

At this point, I must say that, in my opinion, the Americans did not grasp one thing: The Americans had realized that operations against the northern settlements constitute a violation of the cease-fire. The Americans understood, after many efforts and explanations on our part, that terrorist operations originating in Lebanon and against at Israel from the borders of other Arab countries constitute a violation of the cease-fire. Activities within Israel which are ordered from and which are carried out with sabotage materiel originating in Lebanon constitute a violation of the cease-fire. To my regret, the Americans did not understand one thing. I would not like to directly accuse them of this or another act of terrorism. However, there is no doubt the Americans made it plain to the Arabs and the terrorists that an operation in the north or any other operation originating in Lebanon constitutes a violation except for one thing: attacking Jews in Europe.

[Question] Jews and Israelis?

[Answer] Jews and Israelis in Europe -- this is something which we could not accept and I made it plain. To my regret, that was the case until a few days before the operation. The Americans did not understand this and they did not make this point clear to the terrorist organizations. It may be that they would not have insisted on this point as they firmly insisted regarding the northern border and about operations carried out from other borders. Had they also firmly insisted on this issue, it may be that the IDF operation could have been prevented, perhaps for a short period of time.

I do not believe the terrorists would have restrained themselves -- the Americans did not understand this. As far as we are concerned, a cease-fire, also in the future when there is a political arrangement -- the political arrangement will not avail the terrorists immunity anywhere; this must be understood. The political arrangement whereby we will have a 45-km line within which there will be no terrorists -- does anybody believe it will award the terrorists immunity to act against Jews and Israelis anywhere in the world? The answer is absolutely not.

[Question] You said we are on the eve of a political struggle which might be a lengthy one.

Is the IDF deployed for a lengthy stay in Lebanon? Is there no fear that we might get into a static situation where the political effort is held up and the IDF is forced to stay a long time in Lebanon?

[Answer] We set out on this campaign to liberate Israel for as long a period as possible -- it is difficult to use the term forever; many things happen in our world -- from the threat of terrorism. In this campaign, we were ready to sacrifice many and dear victims, it was a difficult campaign. In my opinion, Israelis do not appreciate -- and they will probably not realize it until the soldiers come back and start talking, telling and describing -- the difficulty involved in the fulfillment of this mission; this also shows how important it was to carry it out. Against whom were the terrorists preparing all this infrastructure? Against whom? They were preparing it against us, against the State of Israel, against Jews wherever they are. If we were ready to pay this price in the operation -- and we know how difficult it was to make the decision, and believe me, I was among those who had many doubts because it is very difficult to make the decision to go to war but ultimately we decided there is no other choice. Will we not be ready today, after we sacrificed, purged and cleaned the terrorist nests to stay in the area to realize the political and security achievement of this operation? We must be capable of doing that, we must be patient and forbearing. We must understand that such an operation designed to rid Israel from one of its biggest and constant threats can not be completed without being ready to reveal forbearing and patience and wait for a political arrangement.

[Question] When we talk about the political arrangement in the field within which Israel will withdraw and pull its forces out of Lebanon, reference is made to the Syrians, the terrorists, a multinational force and Israeli forces but no mention has been made so far of the area controlled by Major Haddad. What role will Major Haddad play in such an arrangement? After Israel withdraws its forces and perhaps, we hope, the Syrians also do so, will Major Haddad be able to maintain his current position which, in fact, also constitutes some kind of violation of the sovereignty of the central government in Beirut?

[Answer] We do not interfere and we will not interfere in the internal arrangements in Lebanon. Of course we have an interest in a strong government in Lebanon, we have an interest in Lebanon's territorial integrity. I think even in the order issued to the IDF it was stated: The State of Israel continues to strive for signing a peace treaty with a free Lebanon while maintaining its territorial integrity -- this is our declared position. We hope such a government is indeed established that will exercise central control and have military forces capable of enforcing this control. Maybe then our dream will come true when a second Arab country signs a peace treaty with Israel; I hope that country is Lebanon. I hope and try to believe that it will be Lebanon.

[Question] Do you believe there is a realistic chance for this, at this stage?

[Answer] In general, I believe one should try. First of all, one should dream; then one should believe, and later act and plan and ultimately the goal is reached. I believe here, too, if the conditions are created it may very well be that Lebanon will be the second country with which we will sign a peace treaty. In my opinion this would constitute an absolute revolution in our relations with the Arab world.

As for Major Haddad's future: First of all, I want to praise Major Haddad. This man withstood a difficult military struggle for years, not only a difficult military struggle, this man actually runs the life of a Christian and Shi'ite community of over 100,000 people and he does that successfully. If I am not mistaken, the man was wounded three times. Many times he was miraculously saved from death, he held out with exceptional bravery. Israel will not abandon those people who stood beside it in its difficult hours. I believe and hope that when an arrangement for Lebanese sovereignty is reached, there will be room for Major Hadded within the Lebanese Army and I am sure that, being a man who has fought for so many years, he will be able to rise in the ranks of the Lebanese Army and again find a respectable future within the Lebanese Army. We will not interfere, of course; we respect Lebanon's sovereignty.

[Question] Mr Sharon, what impact might the strong blow dealt to the PLO have on the organization's status in Judaea and Samaria?

[Answer] I think the Arabs of Judaea and Samaria must realize that there is no element capable today of resolving their problems except for themselves. I believe there are elements in Judaea and Samaria -- they do not love Israel and they are not Zionists and we do not have any intention of turning them into Zionists, we have no such intentions -- there are many inhabitants who understand that only they, through direct negotiations with Israel, can reach a situation of peaceful coexistence.

We offered these people proposals the like of which they have not received neither during 400 years of Turkish occupation, 30 years of British occupation, or 19 years of Jordanian and Egyptian occupation. We offered them a plan which is not for a Palestinian state -- there is a Palestinian state, Jordan is a Palestinian state -- we offered them a far-reaching plan which would enable them to run their affairs and lives almost entirely independently, while we leave in our hands the most sensitive problem, namely, the problem of security. We will never entrust Israel's security to anybody else.

Today, I believe that in the light of what is happening -- a great deal depends on final developments in Beirut and to what extent the heads of the PLO snake are crushed -- I believe that fearless people exist who will conduct negotiations and will ultimately run their lives independently.

[Question] In the wake of what happened Mr Minister, is there no room for jarring and shaking the issue, to take an Israeli political initiative, to create a fuss around this issue?

[Answer] There is certainly room for it. Within a few days I hope -- in the last few days I have been awfully busy, I had to be at the front for days and one must be at the front. I know that some people claim that too many senior commanders are at the front and there were complaints about my being there. I also heard that a motion to this effect was submitted to the Knesset; one must be in the field and by the very fact that one is in the field one spares the lives of people and that is our duty. I am not a war minister, I do not regard myself as a war minister. I regard myself as the defense minister of the State of Israel and the Israeli people. I must see to it that there is maximum security, that is my duty; that is the task I undertook, to see to the security of the Israeli people and soldiers; therefore, one must be at the front. One must evaluate the situation every day; situations change.

For example, we thought we could avoid entering a war with the Syrians but we did not succeed in that. This forced us to move north and make an outflanking move. This calls for meetings with commanders and conducting evaluations of the situation at night. I had to attend cabinet sessions everyday and the Cabinet was a full partner to the decisions. The decisions here fully combine military and political decisions. It seems to me that Israel has conducted very few wars in which the political and military aspects were considered simultaneously. I had to appear almost every day before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Beyond that, I could do nothing more. Maybe I managed to sleep 1 hour at night, and not every night at that.

[Question] You began your answer with the words within a few days?

[Answer] In the next few days, since the front has calmed down and we hope it continues to be calm, I hope to launch an initiative for peace in the next few days. The Peace for Galilee Operation was an attack for the sake of peace; now I want to launch an attack for peace and try to resume intensive contacts with the Arabs of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza to try and create a dialogue and thus promote the autonomy talks.

[Question] We will now proceed with the last 15 minutes of the program and deal with the military issues.

[Answer] I would also like to send greetings. I would also like to say shalom to all the soldiers at the front, to the families at home. I hope that soon we will be able to reunite them at home.

[Question] Mr Sharon, perhaps it is too premature to speak about far-reaching military lessons from the operation in Lebanon. In any case, this was the first fully operational performance of the Israeli Merkava tank and it is said that the performance was also successful. Could you please elaborate and explain?

[Answer] Several new weapons developed by the IDF, including the Merkava tank, in the last few years made their maiden appearance in this operation. I can only say without going into detail that all the hopes we pinned on the Merkava tank were realized. It revealed itself to be an excellent tank. I believe it is the best tank in the area. Of course, there were other weapons. We succeeded in overcoming a missile deployment. Within the noise of the war and the argument surrounding it, I think that everybody forgot that for 1 year people complained: What is Israel doing against the Syrian missiles in Lebanon? This was the area of the Syrian missiles in Lebanon, the missiles were in these areas. [Sharon shows the areas on the map] Where are those missiles now? Those missiles have been destroyed in a spectacular lightning operation by the air force.

It is absolutely clear that the air force did not rest on its laurels after the Yom Kippur war. It not only continued to produce excellent pilots, it also invested a great deal of thought and this bore fruit -- not only the air force, all the IDF corps did the same. We used new artillery tools and means developed by us which proved themselves.

The navy also revealed itself here in a new light, not only in the operation of missile boats -- which it did successfully in the Yom Kippur war -- but also as a supporting element to the ground forces enabling them to carry out an outflanking and bypassing approach. This operation does not resemble other operations. In this operation we reached, first of all, the most distant targets thus causing confusion and heavy casualties to the enemy. We have many tools which were tried here for the first time and I think that the hopes we pinned on them were realized.

[Question] With your permission, I would like to focus on the military difficulties the IDF encountered in the fighting in the field. How would you characterize the fighting with the Syrians this time, compared with the Yom Kippur war?

[Answer] The Syrians remain obstinate fighters, just as they were in the Yom Kippur war. However, it should be pointed out that, in general, the wars we fought with the Arab enemies during 30 years were more or less of a static nature. That is to say, when it is impossible to make real and deep moves which include outflanking moves leading to a collapse, that is, taking over the defense which the Arabs thought to use or defend [sentence as heard]; in other words, when we did not attack according to the defense of the other side, our superiority stood out and will stand out in the future, that is our strength. A situation whereby one takes the initiative, senior commanders take the lead and are able to make decisions quickly and on the spot in the battlefield and to effectively use the forces -- that is our superiority. In my opinion, this was also proven in this operation.

As for their fighting, the Syrians were obstinate fighters; they fight in an orderly manner, they do not flee, they fight until they are injured. This is how I would characterize the fighting in the eastern sector.

In contrast, in the central and western sectors we had to fight on terrain on which we had never fought before: high mountains of 1,000 or 1,300 or 1,500 or 2,000 meters high, very narrow roads; you sit inside the tank or the armored carrier and you see a precipice of a hundred meters ahead of you, you have no possibility to overtake other vehicles; the entire terrain is covered with dense forests; and all this takes place when there are unambiguous orders not to harm the civilian population.

I must say I do not believe that any country or army in the world would have issued as strict orders as we did and even if it did issue orders, I do not believe the soldiers would have adhered to the orders as the IDF soldiers did -- not to harm the non-hostile population. All these elements created a very difficult battle situation which we had not experienced before and undoubtedly, it was a difficult war. This was under no circumstances a pleasure trip, this was a difficult war. This is a war, the difficulty it entails only shows and proves how vital it was to launch it now.

I estimate that if their strengthening had continued at the same pace, we would in the future have been faced with far more difficult situations. We paid a heavy price and I know it was a heavy price. My heart goes out to the families; I know there are no words to console them. However, in my opinion, this time we paid a smaller price, but we would have paid a higher price if we had not acted.

[Question] It was reported by the U.S. media that a Soviet T-72 tank captured by the Israeli forces has been transferred to the United States. Can you confirm this report?

[Answer] I think the report is untrue.

[Question] Have other countries in the world expressed interest in what we did to the missiles, about the Merkava, about the Soviet tank? Have they begun to exert pressure [several words indistinct]?

[Answer] They are not pressuring us and it is impossible to exert pressure on us. In this field, which is our own security sphere, just as in other spheres pertaining to Israel's security, it is impossible to exert pressure on Israel. It is impossible to exert pressure on Israel on issues related to its security. This does not mean that we do not exchange information with friendly countries, we did this in the past in [word indistinct]. I think that it was noted in the past -- I think that the prime minister pointed out once -- that in many security spheres Israel did for the United States no less than the United States did for Israel. However, there is no room for pressure here.

However, we witness exceptional interest from all parts of the world about the accomplishments of the IDF, about its ability, whether in regard to the missiles or the tanks. One must realize that we destroyed almost 400 Syrian tanks and some 100 terrorist tanks. We shot down some 100 enemy aircraft of the most advanced types. We shattered to pieces the missile wall which was thought to be impenetrable and we proved that it is penetrable -- and we did that speedily. No doubt this arouses both interest and great appreciation for the IDF's strength and daring as well as for the political daring shown in the ability to make such a difficult decision.

[Question] Gentlemen, to my regret, there are only another 4 minutes left until the end of the program. Yosi 'Abadi, pose a short question and the defense minister will give a brief answer.

[Question] Mr Sharon, are you at peace with the way in which the IDF made the distinction when it struck the terrorists integrated with the civilian population?

[Answer] Yes, I think this point should be contemplated in the long run. In the short run, there is horrible pain. When you say in the short run, actually we suffered dear casualties and we were at a disadvantage because we did not want to harm the civilian population. However, in the long run, as a people, as the Jewish people, as a special people which differs from all other nations, in the long run I think this price with all the pain it entails which was caused by the way we chose not to harm along with innocent people terrorists and murders -- this way was correct. In the long run, as a people, that was the way we had to choose.

[Question] I will pose the question called for here. When will the reservists and other soldiers again be released and return to civilian life?

[Answer] Leaves have been granted, we have begun discharging reservists. One should remember that when reservists return -- some of them are no longer at the front, they are in the emergency depots -- they must handle equipment and put them back in the depots; it is better to be in the emergency depots than at the front. We will continue to give regular leaves and they will be extended. We have begun discharging large numbers of reservists.

I want to tell everybody: We are now gearing for an extensive political struggle and as a nation we must show forebearing on this issue no less than we revealed at the battlefront. I believe the politicians drew encouragement and emulated the example of the determination shown by the soldiers and they will continue to struggle for this issue while the IDF holds to its present lines until an arrangement is reached likely to resolve the painful problem of terrorism for which we set out to war.

[Question] This is the last but not the least of the interview. Many questions remain but we will pose them on another occasion. I would like to thank Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon, my colleagues Yosni 'Abadi and Gad Becker. A good Sabbath to all of you.

[Answer] Thank you.

CABINET MINISTERS TOUR IDF UNITS IN LEBANON

TA211716 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 21 Jun 82

[Text] The Cabinet ministers today toured IDF units in southern Lebanon. Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told the soldiers that the military victory had only been up to Israel but the political successes in the wake of the operation depends on many factors with which one must cope, and a great deal depends on cooperation between Israel and the United States. Deputy Prime Minister Simha Ehrlich and Minister David Levi thanked the soldiers on behalf of the government for carrying out the Peace for Galilee Operation.

Levi, Tzipori Comment

TA212208 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 21 Jun 82

[Report from Lebanon by political correspondent Elimelekh Ram including comments by Deputy Prime Minister David Levi and Communications Minister Mordekhay Tzipori -- 21 June -- videotaped]

[Excerpts] [Ram] The Cabinet ministers, who decided to occupy the area 2 weeks ago, today visited southern Lebanon. The objective was to see the battlefield firsthand and form impressions about events in the area. The objective also was to formulate a position on the continued political process and the military process regarding west Beirut.

[Levi] You [the IDF soldiers] conducted this campaign with our hearts accompanying you through prayer and brought salvation to the northern settlements and to the entire Israeli people. The campaign is not over. We should pass the test and achieve the most important thing, the essence. [sentence as heard] We, by nature, hate wars but when it is necessary in order to defend, to save civilians and settlements, you do what you are charged with. You did this with confidence in your hearts.

[Tzipori] In fact, we possess strongholds allowing for a prolonged stay, thus enabling the political level to exhaust all possible moves.

[Ram] There is a large terrorist concentration -- about 6,000 terrorists -- in west Beirut and the infrastructure has apparently not been totally destroyed. Well then, what good has come out of our moves? Will the outcome of this entire operation not go down the drain if we do not liquidate the terrorists' nests in Beirut?

[Tzipori] First, we destroyed many nests -- in Tyre, Sidon, Ar-Rashidiyah, An-Nabatiyah and so on. There is certainly a massive number of terrorists in Beirut as well. Fighting in Beirut may prove difficult, both from the military and political points of view. The government made decisions. The prime minister repeated these decisions in the United States. It seems to me that Israel possesses strong military cards -- military assets which we acquired after suffering many casualties and much bloodshed -- that can be used in trying to exhaust the political moves that will hopefully lead to results. We should also bargain for the uprooting of the terrorists from Beirut by political means, at least in the beginning.

[Ram] Mr Tzipori: Do you not feel the IDF in fact, went too far when it reached Beirut? Do you not feel that the objective of clearing the terrorists from a 40-km zone along the border was achieved many days before the end of the campaign?

[Tzipori] I would not say so. I think we were faced in the eastern sector with the problem of removing the terrorists from the border area. In order to create pressure in the eastern sector -- and remove the Syrians, among which a large number of terrorists were dispersed -- we had to resort to more far-reaching moves. In fact, the moves we made in order to reach the rearguard of the Syrians advanced us to Ad-Damur and beyond it too. The rest of the developments evolved in the course of the fighting.

BEN-ELISAR: PLO DESTRUCTION ALMOST INEVITABLE

TA211611 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 21 Jun 82

[Text] Eliyahu Ben-Elisar has said the destruction of the terrorist stronghold in Beirut is an almost inevitable step. Interviewed in Beirut by our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal, the chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee said if the PLO's base in the Lebanese capital remains intact, Israel will, with its own hands, be planting the seed for the continued armed struggle by the terrorists.

MK Hayim Herzog of the Alignment, who also toured Beirut, said if the terrorist commands remain where they are, this will make it possible for the terrorists to resume fighting in the future.

MK Ben-Elisar added he finds it difficult to believe the political moves in Lebanon will yield fruit. In his opinion, the PLO will not accept a political solution.

Sees No Political Solution

TA211804 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1725 GMT 21 Jun 82

[Text] The chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee arrived in Beirut for a tour today. We asked him whether Israel will tolerate the terrorists' remaining in Beirut:

[Begin Ben-Elisar recording] I am really afraid that if the terrorists' leadership remains in west Beirut the problem we wanted to resolve with this war will recur. Therefore, I cannot see how we can avoid destroying the terrorist hold in west Beirut. This does not mean the IDF must enter the western part of Beirut. There are all sorts of possibilities or ways but I do not think we can tolerate a situation in which the PLO will remain in Beirut. Some political efforts are currently underway. It is hard for me to believe they will largely resolve this issue. I cannot see the PLO agreeing to a political solution. However, one should give this possibility a chance. If this fails, there are many possibilities, many formulae, that perhaps we should not discuss. To repeat, not all depends on the IDF's entrance into Beirut.

We have the military problem, the problem of casualties and also our room to maneuver on this issue of Beirut. All this leads to the conclusion, in fact, that we should exhaust all possibilities so as to refrain from sending the IDF into Beirut. Nevertheless, I insist that we cannot leave the PLO's stronghold in Beirut since, by so doing, we will sow the seed for an ongoing struggle. [end recording]

As for the Syrians, Eliyahu Ben-Elisar says that as long as the Israeli-Syrian ceasefire is kept it should be maintained indeed. The Syrian force in Beirut, he says, is symbolic rather than a real force.

Urges PLO Be 'Knocked Out'

TA220604 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0519 GMT 22 Jun 82

[Interview with Dr Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, by Razi Barqay in Beirut, 21 June -- recorded]

[Text] [Ben-Elisar] The PLO has been dealt a very strong blow -- in Beirut, too -- and there is no doubt of this. The command headquarters were destroyed, and the infrastructure has been destroyed to a very great extent, but the very fact that the leadership exists there and that there are still several thousand fighters there, there are arms caches there, certainly also food stores, all of that still permits the PLO to operate and what is perhaps graver still is that if what still exists in west Beirut is not destroyed, this will give the PLO the possibility of acting in the future, of organizing itself after recovering from this shock.

[Question] Are you, accordingly, proposing the military destruction of what remains in west Beirut?

[Answer] I think we have no choice but to knock out the PLO, what is left of it, in west Beirut. This does not mean the only possibility of doing this is by sending the IDF into west Beirut, but the fact that we must hit them to the point where they will not be able to get up again or to reestablish a military force, I have no doubts about that.

[Question] What could happen, other than bringing the IDF in?

[Answer] There are all sorts of ways, there are all sorts of possibilities, there are all sorts of formulations and, of course, these things cannot be discussed in detail. The State of Israel has very many possibilities.

[Question] Dr Ben-Elisar, what you are proposing, in fact, is a very significant deviation from what was defined as the basis of the Peace for Galilee campaign, the basic objectives that the government defined for itself.

[Answer] I do not thing there is any question here of any deviation. The State of Israel, or the Government of Israel, has never committed itself to stop the constant fight, our constant fight against the PLO, and I certainly accept the opinion and the policy that the PLO must not be given immunity wherever it is and even if there are no longer any PLO bases beyond the 40- or 45-km zone or beyond our border but the PLO is there and we let them be there to exist, to develop and from there to do whatever they want against us -- we cannot give them immunity and so I certainly regard this as a part of the government's policy, and more or less related to the Peace for Galilee campaign. We have guaranteed peace for Galilee, but we have not guaranteed the Yehuda market in Jerusalem or the Karmel market in Tel Aviv. Can we permit ourselves this?

OMVG CONFERENCE ISSUES JOINT COMMUNIQUE

AB190816 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 18 Jun 82

[Joint communique issued on Gambia River Development Organization conference held in Banjul 17-18 June -- read by Senegalese Secretary of State for Water Resources Samba Yella Diop -- recorded]

[Text] The conference of the Gambia River Development Organization [OMVG] was held in Banjul on 17 and 18 June under the chairmanship of His Excellency Abdou Diouf, president of the Republic of Senegal and current chairman of the conference of heads of state and government.

The Gambian delegation was led by Alhaji Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara, president of the Republic of Gambia; the Guinean delegation was led by His Excellency Ahmed Sekou Toure, president of the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea; and the Senegalese delegation was led by Samba Yella Diop, secretary of state for water resources of the Republic of Senegal. The three delegations also included ministers, ambassadors and senior officials.

His Excellency Alhaji Sir Dawda Jawara, [words indistinct] his dear brothers, President Abdou Diouf and Ahmed Sekou Toure, on the occasion of the fourth conference of the OMVC heads of state and government. He further stressed the need to pursue efforts for the rapid achievement of the goals the organization has set for the entire river basin. The current chairman, His Excellency Abdou Diouf, on behalf of His Excellency Ahmed Sekou Toure, on his own behalf and on behalf of the delegations accompanying them, expressed sincere thanks and gratitude to President Alhaji Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara, the Gambian people and government for the welcome extended to them. He then outlined the progress realized by the organization during his term of office.

The conference also took note of the report of the council of ministers, introduced by the Honorable Omer Jallow, minister of water resources and environment of the Republic of Gambia and current chairman of the council of ministers.

The heads of state and government reviewed the activities of the organization and took note of the progress report on its projects and programs. They confirmed the need to rapidly complete the basic and infrastructural studies on the entire Gambia River Basin and to implement them as quickly as possible.

On administrative and financial matters, the conference approved the measures adopted by the council of ministers for the (?deployment) of staff to the high commission. The heads of state and government endorsed the decision of the council of ministers on the organization's budget for 1982-83.

With regard to renewal of the bodies of the organization, the heads of state decided to:

1. Appoint His Excellency Ahmed Sekou Toure, president of the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea, chairman of the conference of heads of state and government for 1982-84;

2. Appoint Samba Yella Diop, secretary of state for water resources of the Republic of Senegal, chairman of the council of ministers for 1982-84;

3. Renew the term of office of Mr (Marechal) as high commissioner for 1982-86.

The fourth ordinary session of the conference of heads of state and government discussed general policy matters at subregional level. In this connection, it accepted the principle of admitting the Republic of Guinea-Bissau as the fourth member state of the OMVG. The administrative and legal formalities for this admission will be completed before the next ordinary session of the conference. Meanwhile, the Republic of Guinea-Bissau will be allowed to attend all the meetings of the organization as an observer.

The Republic of Gambia, the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea and the Republic of Senegal are convinced of the favorable consequences that the admission of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau will have for the OMVG. It will ensure greater harmony in economic, social and cultural development; better coordination of efforts to safeguard and consolidate independence, peace and security in the subregion; and greater effectiveness of the joint contribution of OMVG members to the progress of ECOWAS, the OAU and all international organizations to which they belong.

The heads of state and government took the opportunity at their meeting to reiterate their thanks to friendly countries and international organizations that show their support for the organization by helping to implement its programs.

The heads of state and government express their satisfaction with the atmosphere of friendship and cooperation characterizing their deliberations.

Their Excellencies Ahmed Sekou Toure, president of the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea, and Abdou Diouf, president of the Republic of Senegal, reiterated on their own behalf and on behalf of their respective delegations, their profound gratitude to His Excellency Alhaji Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawar, president of the Republic of Gambia, the government and people of Gambia for the warm welcome and generous hospitality shown during their stay in Gambia.

Issued in Banjul, 10 June, by the conference

Diouf on Meeting, OAU Summit

AB191235 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 18 Jun 82

[Press conference held by Senegalese President Abdou Diouf in Dakar on 18 June on his return from the Gambia River Development Organization Conference in Banjul -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] Mr President, the admission of Guinea-Bissau into the Gambia River Development Organization [OMVG] marks a turning point in its development toward integrating the communities of our four states. However, with the difficult world economic situation, don't you think that the projects are somehow too ambitious?

[Answer] One must always be ambitious. It is through reasonable ambitions that we can ensure the well-being of our people. This is so because the challenges are many, but the hopes of our people are also very high. We who have the burden of leading them, of winning their confidence, have the duty to be ambitious so that they can achieve full development and be happy, united and prosperous.

Concerning the Banjul meeting, we must first of all express satisfaction for the very warm welcome accorded us by President Alhaji Dawda Jawara [passage indistinct].

We stressed the need to rapidly find funds for projects in the upper basin area, on the Guinea side. Up till now, attention has mainly been on the Senegalese and Gambian sides of the OMVG. To this end, the current chairman of the conference of heads of state, President Ahmed Sekou Toure, with the assistance of the current chairman of the council of ministers, Senegalese Secretary of State for Water Resources Samba Yella Diop, and the OMVG high commissioner, will tackle the issue of exploring all sources of funds. We believe we will soon find the necessary funds for the implementation of goals enabling us to achieve our integrated development program.

At this point, I must stress the decision made by the three heads of state. It is a principle to assist Guinea-Bissau within the OMVG. Thus, we admitted Guinea-Bissau in principle, as a member state. This decision will take effect from the next summit, that is, within 1 year. Before then, the appropriate formalities must have been completed to enable Guinea-Bissau to be a full member of the organization.

[Question] Mr President, can we know if, with Presidents Sir Dawda and Ahmed Sekou Toure, you discussed the future of the confederation and especially the future of the OAU in general.

[Answer] I held talks with President Ahmed Sekou Toure on Senegal-Guinea relations, which are excellent. We agreed to continue working toward the consolidation of these ties. Relations between Senegal and Guinea are very cordial and this is commendable. We will continue to hold consultations on all issues involving cooperation.

With President Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara, we discussed the Senegambia Confederation, of course. You know there has been a little delay in the elaboration, the adoption and therefore the ratification of the protocol on the implementation of the confederal pact. This was due to the Gambian elections that were preceded by the electoral campaign. President Jawara and myself, as well as our two governments, have the firm desire to speed up the steps for the protocol to be implemented as early as possible. We particularly stressed the need to speed up work on the protocol on institutions so that we can appoint the Cabinet and set up the confederal assembly. The other protocols will follow and we are sure that from now on, things will move at a satisfactory pace.

Of course, we discussed the problems of the OAU. We both expressed the hope that this organization will be able to contain the danger facing it. This does not depend on us alone. The position of our three states -- Guinea, Gambia and Senegal -- is known. It is a logical and coherent position. We have already said that the OAU, during its ministerial meeting in Addis Ababa, made a mistake in admitting the SDAR, whereas at the summit held in Nairobi, the heads of state had decided on the holding of a referendum for self-determination. This will enable the Saharan people to express themselves. We therefore believe that it was out of place and illegal for a ministerial council to decide the admission of a state. This could be done after the Saharan people have taken part in this referendum.

Therefore, we believe that as long as this issue is not resolved, we cannot attend the forthcoming OAU summit. We also believe that wisdom will finally triumph. Once again, it is a matter of principle. If we have assurances that the so-called SDAR will not attend the Tripoli summit, then we will take part. If we do not have the necessary assurances, we will not take part. I believe I am speaking the mind of the three heads of state who have just met in Banjul.

ALGERIA

FRANCE'S EXTERNAL RELATIONS MINISTER ARRIVES

LD211734 Algiers APS in Arabic 1400 GMT 21 Jun 82

[Excerpt] Algiers, 21 Jun (APS) -- French Minister of External Relations Claude Cheysson arrived in Algiers this morning for a brief visit during which he will be signing an agreement with Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, within the framework of economic cooperation for the next 10 years. The agreement, which was drawn up by Algeria and France 10 months ago in accordance with directives from the presidents of the two countries, concerns several sectors of economic activity including housing, energy, irrigation, transportation, fisheries and new forms of energy.

Protocol Signed

LD212026 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Jun 82

[Excerpts] In Algiers this afternoon Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the [FLN] Political Bureau and foreign minister, and French Minister of External Relations Claude Cheysson, signed a protocol agreement on economic cooperation between Algeria and France.

After the signing ceremony, Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi gave a speech in which he stressed that together with his French counterpart he will continue the efforts the governments of the two countries have been making to deepen cooperation between Algeria and France. He affirmed that as a result of these joint efforts, cooperation (?is acquiring) a new look. This is evident in the economic cooperation agreement which was signed today. He expressed the conviction that today's agreement clearly defines the framework of (?economic) cooperation because it complements the instruments which steer it and strengthens the (?bilateral) dialogue between the two countries which is taking place in an atmosphere of confidence and mutual respect.

Claude Cheysson praised the late Muhammad Ben Yahia and his companions who died in May. Afterward, he referred to continuing contacts between senior French and Algerian officials [words indistinct].

Claude Cheysson recalled the many ties which have been promoted and the agreements which have been signed in the past. He noted that in the first quarter of the current year no less than 17 contracts have been signed between France and Algeria worth (?7 billion dirhams) [words indistinct]. He expressed satisfaction with the signing of the protocol agreement which defines the framework of Algerian-French economic cooperation and he also expressed confidence in the future of relations between the two countries. He affirmed that the Algerian-French protocol will undoubtedly open the way to noble and exemplary forms of international economic cooperation and will ensure a balanced development of opportunities.

French Minister of External Relations Claude Cheysson left Houari Boumediene International Airport this evening after signing the protocol agreement on economic cooperation between Algeria and France. He was seen off at the airport by Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs.

MOROCCO

SUPERPOWERS URGED TO END ISRAELI INVASION

LD211354 Rabat MAP in English 1221 GMT 21 Jun 82

[Text] Rabat, June 21 (MAP) -- King Hassan II of Morocco is following with a particular attention the evolution of the situation in Lebanon and had several contacts, at Arab and international levels, with the aim of putting an end to the Israeli aggression, stated here M'hamed Boucetta, Moroccan state minister for foreign affairs.

In a statement to Moroccan news agency MAP, Mr. Boucetta said that given the serious situation and the threats it poses to peace in the region and in the world, Morocco invites the superpowers to meet their responsibilities to put an end to the Israeli aggression and to urge Israel to evacuate its invading troops from Lebanon in implementation of the resolution of the Security Council and in conformity with the wish of the international community. Morocco, he added, reaffirms his attachment to independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon.

The state minister recalled that Morocco strongly condemns the Israeli aggression, expresses its solidarity with Lebanon and the Palestinian resistance and is ready to mobilize its potentialities and energies to support the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples in their struggle against the odious Israeli aggression. He added that the situation resulting from the Israeli invasion and expansionist aims requires a firm Arab stance because the time is not for slogans and speeches but for action and sacrifice.

Mr Bouceta finally said that Morocco had informed the Arab League of its support to any Arab joint stance to face the Israeli challenge and accepts any Arab meeting to strengthen the Palestinian Resistance.

U.S. ACCUSED OF 'OPEN COLLUSION' IN LEBANON

PM181157 Rabat AL-'ALAM in Arabic 12 Jun 82 p 12

['Abbas Barradah article: "For Your Redemption, Palestine"]

[Text] The Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon did not surprise anyone. The Lebanese and Palestinian forces expected it and were preparing to confront it, taking into consideration all invasion possibilities. They did not anticipate that the enemy would throw all its military weight and manpower into the battle and premeditatedly attack civilian concentrations of innocent children, women and elderly and disabled people, killing hundreds and wounding thousands of people, not to mention destroying residential, social and economic establishments in fraternal Lebanon.

What is worse, this aggression has been met with open U.S. collusion, low-key condemnation by the Eastern bloc states, disinterest by some Western states and mild condemnation bordering on nonchalance by most of the Arab and Islamic states and governments.

Why did the U.S. and EEC governments boycott and isolate Argentina economically, militarily and politically on account of the Malvinas and yet do nothing about the Zionist invasion of fraternal Lebanon? Has the world returned to the law of the jungle to be so lenient toward Israeli terrorism, or are the leaders of the superpowers so blind they allow the Zionist state to destroy world peace in any way it wants or in a manner not much different from the mass annihilation from which the Jews themselves suffered in the past?

Whatever the answer to these questions, the only way to preserve security and peace is to ensure a speedy withdrawal of Israeli forces and put an end to the inhuman and detestable Zionist practices in Lebanon and Palestine, because these practices are the main cause of the devastating wars in the region and elsewhere in the world.

The head, consisting of the PLO and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement, is joined to the body that consists of all the Islamic and Arab peoples, and it is too dear and too precious to be severed or harmed.

So, may all this be for your redemption, Palestine. It is a revolution until victory.

TUNISIA

BOURGUIBA RECEIVES PLO'S FARUQ QADDUMI

LD211506 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1000 GMT 21 Jun 82

[Text] Tunis, 21 Jun (TAP) -- President Habib Bourguiba this morning in Tunis received Faruq Qaddumi, head of the Political Department of the Palestine Liberation Organization, who was accompanied by Dr Sidqi ad-Dajani, member of the PLO Executive Committee.

Qaddumi stated that the Tunisian president assured him "of Tunisia's firm and committed support for the Palestinian people in their [word indistinct] struggle against the Nazi-Zionist invasion." President Habib Bourguiba also stressed that he has been making and will continue to make every effort at the international level to support the Palestinian question and the struggle of the Palestinian people to achieve their national aims.

Tunisian Foreign Minister Bej Caid es-Sebsi had a working meeting with Faruq Qaddumi in the presence of Sidqi ad-Dajani and (Hakam Bil'awi), the PLO's representative in Tunis. The meeting dealt with the latest developments in Lebanon, with the practical measures that can be taken and with the next steps to be adopted to support the Palestinian struggle and to give it further [words indistinct]. The meeting was another opportunity for Tunisia's president, government and people to confirm their unreserved support for the Palestinian Resistance.

BEIRUT EMBASSY DAMAGED BY ISRAELI BOMBS

LD220900 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1000 GMT 21 Jun 82

["Bulletin for Tunisian Embassies in the Arab East" -- TAP headline]

[Text] Tunis, 21 Jun (TAP) -- It has been learned from an official source at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that the Tunisian Embassy building in the Beirut area of Ramlah al-Baydhah was the target of an attack by Israeli fragmentation bombs. The incident resulted in material damage but caused no casualties.

SUDAN

BRIEFS

ROMANIAN ENVOY DIES -- Khartoum, 19 Jun (SUNA) -- On behalf of the Sudanese Government, Foreign Minister Muhammad Mirghani has announced the death of Romanian Ambassador in Khartoum Dimitru Ristea, who died of a heart attack yesterday, Friday. [Excerpt] [Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 19 Jun 82 GF]

CHROME EXPORTS TO JAPAN -- An official source at the Sudanese minerals establishment has stated that chrome products sold to Japan from July 1980 to (?July) 1982 amounted to 49,500 tons. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 19 Jun 82 GF]

ETHIOPIA

MENGISTU REPORT ADVOCATES PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE

EA201842 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1709 GMT 18 Jun 82

[3-hour speech by Mengistu Haile Mariam to the fourth plenum of the Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia Central Committee in Addis Ababa on 18 June -- recorded]

[Excerpts] Our inability to resolve by now the visible shortages of foodstuffs in urban centers is the most worrying of our major economic problems. The cause of the shortages is not only low agricultural productivity but also our inefficiency in collecting, transporting, storing and distributing the harvested produce in time. These factors have further aggravated the problem. The last three programs of the economic development campaign concentrated on state farms to compensate for inadequate productivity in the agricultural sector. However, the produce from state farms could not contribute to resolving the shortages as much as expected since for various reasons their productivity also has been low.

Although industrial productivity has greatly increased, acute shortages of basic industrial products exist, particularly blankets, textiles, cooking oil, soap, shoes and many other items. This is because the overall output of existing industries does not in any way correspond to the consumption demands of society. Although some factories have the production capacity to meet consumer demand, shortages of agricultural raw materials mean they are unable to use their full production capacity.

Other acute problems in the industiral sector are shortages of construction materials and primary products, that have a large negative impact on the implementation of interconnected development projects. Therefore, these are burning economic problems needing prompt action.

At our present level of development, agricultural production has a direct impact on the quantity and quality of the goods we export to earn foreign exchange to speed up the country's economic development. Since the increase in agricultural production over the years cannot even fully satisfy domestic demand, almost no increase has been recorded in the quantity and quality of exported goods.

Furthermore, due to the downward trend in the prices of raw materials on world markets over the past 3 years, lose of foreign exchange has now become a source of grave concern. The source of our present worrying economic problems is the inability of our GNP to satisfy national consumption demands. Moreover, inefficient work and unproportional distribution of goods resulting from our inability to control fully unpatriotic and greedy traders who have risen up to do everything possible to frustrate our efforts have worsened the problem. Because of this, it has been impossible to control the soaring prices of goods, especially necessities such as foodstuffs, clothing and household articles.

The industrial sector is producing as much as possible and overall industiral output has been increasing every year as a result of measures to improve productivity and production organization. However, whatever the overall production growth, our attempt to improve the distribution of goods and storage facilities has not been easy, and bringing them under control will be even harder.

The inability of GNP growth to meet general consumption demand is one of the causes of this situation, and the problem has been worsened by the contradictions between private organizations on the one hand and mass and government trading organizations on the other.

Production relations must be changed to ensure the removal of these contradictions by expanding and strengthening mass and government trading organizations and establishing an even distribution of goods between urban centers and rural areas. In view of the commercial sector's low level of development, our efforts to change production relations there cannot be viewed lightly.

Comrades, dismantling the reactionary order and asserting the political supremacy of the working people does not mean the class struggle has come to an end. Our enemies, who were once fighting directly against us to realize their reactionary objective of regaining the political power taken from them, have not accepted or respected the supremacy of the revolution and the broad masses and they are not sitting idle. On the contrary, clearly they have continued waging both covert and overt wars. As if they had not once campaigned against the revolution -- our enemies are now pretending to be supporters of the revolution and today are engaged in a campaign of (?cheap gossip) aimed at dividing and creating rifts among revolutionaries. As if they had not allied themselves with the imperialists and the reactionary Somali Government and fought against us to prevent the supremacy of the working people, our enemies, pretending to be friends and shedding crocodile tears over our temporary economic problems, are striving to create rifts between the working people and the revolution.

As if they had not at one time fought, even with arms, to realize their [word indistinct] political objective, our enemies, feigning religion, are now waging their covert political struggle at the forum the revolution created to assert the equality of faiths. As if they had not tried to present themselves as outstanding socialists, our enemies, the tools of new religions, are now intensifying their malicious campaign to rob the working people of their revolutionary ardor. In this manner, apart from the reactionary political struggle they are waging, they take advantage of their economic position to try to frustrate economic development efforts and convince the people that socialist economic policy does not work, and their efforts have not only been intensified but also transformed from covert to overt. The obstacles being created in different forms and shapes at various levels to frustrate the implementation of the revolutionary government's economic policies and other plans and programs, particularly those developed to strengthen the public sector of the economy, cannot be ignored.

In our situation, we have to withstand not only the covert war waged by reactionary forces after their defeat in open war; international imperialism, that realizes peace would give us favorable conditions for building an invincible socialist system in a part of the world that has been in the dark for many years and is being ruthlessly exploited by colonialism and neocolonialism, is even now attacking us from many directions. For this purpose, it uses various tactics different in method but similar in objectives. On the one hand, in an attempt to make the revolution responsible for the aforementioned problems that it itself created, international imperialism deploys nationalists who pretend to be friends. On the other hand, it is striving to destroy the country's unity and to weaken us completely in order to put us under its control by deploying hirelings who claim to be struggling for national independence but who are actually struggling for slavery.

The present glaring imperialist machinations focus on the second point. In this respect, apart from promoting the reactionary Somali ruling clique's expansionist policy and encouraging the secessionists in Eritrea, the enemy is striving to create other hirelings by forming a united front of the former groups and a united front of the latter groups.

It is known that since subversive secessionist activities in Eritrea began, fertile ground for neoimperialist strategy has been laid and the region has become the main bastion of reaction in our country today. The need for the "red star" multipurpose revolutionary campaign was the result of objectively assessing the situation.

We understand that such questions as -- What stage has the revolution reached? What has been achieved? What has not yet been achieved? -- are questions that are being asked by all friends of the revolution.

Militarily since 22 February, more than half the bandits have been crushed in the very fierce battle they are waging in the Sahel Mountains and rugged ground in which they have stayed. The natural shelters about which they have been boasting and the strongholds they have prepared over many years have been receiving blows from our recolutionary army and are practically surrounded. [applause]

The longstanding hopes of the bandits, who are hirelings of reactionary forces, deny the facts of history and challenge the country's unity and existence. They are being shattered by our revolutionary army's struggle. Our magnificent history of safeguarding the unity and borders of the motherland is being enriched by our revolutionary army's sacrifice of precious blood and lives and by revolutionary heroism and (?socialist) patriotism.

The patriotism and unswerving revolutionary determination demonstrated by true citizens in the present decisive struggle in Eritrea are to be highly counted on. Those members of our revolutionary army who perform acts of incredible heroism by choosing (?death) over the disruption of the unity of the country and of the working people are great in number. Their daily acts of bravery are also a historic source of pride that cannot be described in words.

The bandits' territory is diminishing every day as a result of this life-and-death struggle. In a nutshell, the results we have achieved so far for the motherland's territorial integrity through highly resolute heroes with a special place in our history of struggle are a source of pride and our sacrifices have not been small.

While the superiority of the revolutionary army as a result of its popular support and just cause is unquestionable, the desperate struggle waged by the bandits with the backing of their long experience and abundant support from imperialists and reactionary forces in the region to perpetuate their existence is not insignificant.

Comrades, we have never viewed international and regional situations or relations with our neighbors separately from our concern for the unity, well-being and progress of our people and the safeguarding of our territorial integrity and existence. In line with this basic outlook and position, we believe in, and attach great importance to, creating favorable and constructive conditions for peace in the region and progress for our immediate neighbors by promoting good neighborliness with them on the basis of mutual cooperation and peaceful coexistence. We are not just pretending nor is this just to get temporary peace to serve our interests but because we realize that the aspirations of the Ethiopian people for peace and progress are also the aspirations of other peoples since we are primarily revolutionaries and not nationalists.

However, since our good will can benefit the peoples of the region if they all make appropriate and sincere contributions, we expect our neighbors to reciprocate. Although deplorable damage has been caused to the two countries and their peoples as a result of the backward views of Siad Barre who is a messenger of destruction and his accomplices, on our party, we have not stopped seeking and wishing for the well-being, peace and progress of the brotherly Somali people.

COOPERATION ACCORDS SIGNED WITH SUDAN 21 JUNE

EA211934 Addis Ababa in English to Neighboring Countries 1530 GMT 21 Jun 82

[Text] The Ethio-Sudanese joint committee of experts today adopted a number of recommendations for the implementation of the memorandum of understanding signed between the two governments last May.

A press release by the Ethiopian Foreign Ministry said that the two sides have signed three cooperation accords pertaining to security, defense, political and refugee matters.

Speaking on the occasion, Comrade Moges Habte-Mariam, permanent secretary of the Ethiopian Ministry of National and Public Security, reiterated Ethiopia's readiness to work towards the implementation of the agreements. The leader of the Sudanese delegation, Mr Hashim 'Uthman assured the Ethiopian side of the readiness of his government to fully implement the newly-reached agreement.

On departure for home this afternoon, Mr Hashim 'Uthman said that the outcome of the meeting of the joint committee of experts would very much facilitate and strengthen the work of the high-level Ethio-Sudan joint defense and security committee meeting set to convene next July.

KENYA

PRESIDENT MAKES ASSURANCES ON ONE-PARTY SYSTEM

EA181630 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 18 Jun 82

[Excerpt] President Daniel arap Moi has assured Kenyans that the country will remain a truly democratic state despite the recent action to legalize KANU as the only political party in the country.

Addressing a large rally in Eldoret town this afternoon, President Moi said that the recent step to legalize KANU as the only political party aimed at ensuring that there was proper control and discipline within the party. The president said that Kenyans would continue to enjoy the freedom of having as many candidates as possible in any election despite a one-party system. He said that contrary to what some disgruntled elements are preaching, KANU will not choose representatives for Kenyans. He said that the announcement to have one political party in the country has shown that most of the so-called KANU members were wolves in sheepskins and were never loyal to the party. [sentence as heard]

The president warned that KANU and the government will continue with the clean-up to rid Kenya of disgruntled elements and unpatriotic Kenyans whose aim is to confuse citizens for their selfish ends.

MOI PROMISES DEVELOPMENT OF BORDER AREAS

EA211144 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 21 Jun 82

[Excerpts] His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi today directed that from next month all districts should be the base of operations in transacting government development matters in the rural areas. The president said that the move was designed to accelerate rural development, which was top priority in the government policy. He said that making districts the hub of government operations will, among other things, minimize unnecessary correspondence between officers at ministry headquarters and those in the districts.

President Moi was addressing a mammoth crowd at Lodwar Township at the end of his 2-day official tour of West Pokot and Turkana Districts.

Touching on the ever-present need of security along the Kenya borders, the president stressed that the country's security will never be compromised. The president said that after 2 July, this year, the government will embark on recruitment of more Turkana and Pokot youth into the administration police training college at Embakasi. On completion of their training, the president added that the youth will be deployed in Pokot and Turkana areas as borderguards to eliminate the few remaining bandits or cattle rustlers who cross the boundaries into our country to terrorize the law-abiding and peaceful Wanachi. Amid applause, the mammoth crowd said that disgruntled and bad elements who claim to be militants should go to Lodwa and join hands with local people to develop the area. The crowd also supported the recent constitutional amendment making the country a one-party state.

President Moi commended the local MP's and other leaders for responding positively to his call to end the ngoroko [cattle-rustling] menace in 1979. He told Turkana and Pokot MP's to maintain the same spirit in a bid to crush the remaining stock thieves and bring rapid development in the area. President Moi enumerated several development projects initiated by the government in Turkana and West Pokot Districts and pledged that more aid would be provided to enable the local people to end their dependence on famine relief provided by the government.

He said the new Kitale-Turkana tarmac road linking Kenya and Sudan was an economic asset that will enable economic exploitation of vast agricultural potential in Keiyo Valley and adjoining areas.

Noting that there were 28 dispensaries and 8 health centers in Lodwar, President Moi said that despite financial constraints facing the country, the government will, through the Ministry of Health, look into the possibility of establishing a unit to train nurses at the new Lodwar district hospital built at the cost of 24 million shillings. He added that the government will undertake a massive water project to alleviate water problems in the area.

On behalf of the government, President Moi thanked the Government of Norway for giving Kenya 20 million shillings in aid of a fish exploitation project. As a result of the aid, the president added that fish business was now earning the local people 500,000 shillings a month.

Saying that Lodwar was a historical place since it was the site where the late President Jomo Kenyatta was imprisoned by the colonialists, President Moi called on the peace-loving Kenyans to be on the lookout for and report people talking ill of the government to the appropriate authorities.

The president instructed that an abundant supply of tractor and motor spares should be stored at Lodwar in order to stop farmers from making unnecessary and expensive journeys to buy spares in Kitale. He said that a cooperative society will be formed to enable farmers in the area to market their produce and that water for irrigation would be tapped from Turkwell River.

CHAD

KAMOUGUE CALLS FOR FREE ELECTIONS, DEMOCRACY

AB211430 Paris AFP in English 1354 GMT 21 Jun 82

[Text] Ndjamena, June 21 (AFP) -- Colonel Kamougue Abdel Kader, vice premier in Chad's ousted transitional government and the strongman in the south, has called for the organizing of free elections and the re-establishment of democracy in the country.

Col Kamougue, in a speech Sunday in Sarh in southern Chad and reported today by Radio Moundou, said that the capture of Ndjamena by Hissein Habre's Armed Forces of the North (FAN) "clarified the military situation" and had created a new factor in considering Chad's future.

But only free elections can bring true peace to the country, Col Kamougue said.

He also appealed to friendly countries and international organizations to help the reconstruction of Chad, and said that [words indistinct] forces and a group of the Chadian armed forces at Moundou in the south had now ended.

Col Kamougue called on these forces, whom he said had been "manipulated" by politicians, to change their loyalities in favor of unity and cohesion. He said that the fighting was aimed at getting rid of him and setting up former Chadian President Goukouni Oueddei in Moundou.

The colonel also called on supporters of various tendencies who had fled Ndjamena for the south to lay down their arms.

FROLINAT FACTION ASKS OAU TROOPS TO STAY

AB211250 Paris AFP in French 1154 GMT 21 Jun 82

[Text] Lagos, 21 Jun (AFP) -- The Fundamental Frolinat, a Chadian faction signatory to the Lagos Accords and led by Hadjaro Senoussi, has asked that the OAU peacekeeping force be maintained in Chad.

In a communique received on Monday by AFP in the Nigerian capital, the faction says the pan-African organization must maintain its troops in Chad until a "final solution is found to the Chadian drama." The Fundamental Frolinat also believes that if the troops are withdrawn, "they will be replaced by another foreign force." For the movement, "FAN's control over the Chadian capital does not fully solve the Chadian problem."

"Peace has not been restored," adds the movement, which calls for "a general conference assembling the OAU, Chad's friendly neighbors, the factions singatory to the Lagos Accords and national dignitaries to examine differences and to devise a new program aimed at providing the country with new democratic institutions."

GAMBIA

OPPOSITION LEADER ACQUITTED OF COUP INVOLVEMENT

AB181748 Paris AFP in French 1738 GMT 18 Jun 82

[Text] Banjul, 18 Jun (AFP) -- Sherrif Moustapha Dibba, leader of the National Convention Party (Gambia's main opposition party), was acquitted Friday by the Banjul tribunal. He was accused of taking part in the aborted coup of 30 July 1981 against President Jawara's government.

GHANA

RAWLINGS MEETS WITH LIBYA'S AT-TURAYKI 21 JUNE

LD221010 Tripoli JANA in English 0859 GMT 22 Jun 82

[Text] Accra, Sha'ban 30, Jun 22, Jamahiriyah News Agency -- Dr 'Ali at-Turayki met here yesterday with Flight Lieutenant Rawlings the chairman of the National Defence Council, in Ghana, and handed him a letter from the leader of the revolution.

Flight-Lieutenant Rawlings renewed Ghana's support for and backing of the Libyan Arab people in their confrontation of imperialism and expressed his deep admiration for their historic leader and his militant role in support of the freedom of the African people.

He also confirmed that he will attend in person the OAU summit in Jamahiriyah pointing out that this conference will be a departure point for a new historic stage in the African struggle against all imperialist conspiracies devised against the unity and peace of this continent. The OAU conference will be the right place to solve all the problems of Africa, through an African spirit which will secure its interest first and foremost.

The meeting was also attended by Ghana's foreign minister and a number of the council's members.

At-Turayki Leaves for Benin

AB212026 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 21 Jun 82

[Text] Dr 'Ali at-Turayki, special envoy of the Libyan leader, Colonel al-Wadhdhafi, left Accra this morning for Benin after a 2-day visit to Ghana. During his visit, Dr at-Turayki delivered a special invitation to the chairman of the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC], Flight Lieutenant Rawlings, to attend the forthcoming OAU summit in Tripoli. He also held discussions on a number of subjects with the PNDC chairman.

Speaking to newsmen just before his departure, Dr at-Turayki disclosed that any attempt to overthrow the revolution in Ghana would be considered an attempt against the Libyan revolution. He noted that several agreements have been signed between Ghana and Libya. These, he said, consolidate the revolution in the two countries. He gave the assurance that even though Libya faces some problems as a result of the economic blockade by the U.S. against it, his country will not hesitate to give the maximum help it can to Ghana. Dr at-Turayki added that Ghana and Libya are in the struggle to liberate and defend African independence. He explained that independence does not only mean flag and head of state. Real independence is the liberation of the economies of the African countries from the colonialists to put an end to the exploitation of man by man.

SENEGAL

SENEGALESE TROOPS BEGIN RETURNING FROM CHAD

AB211045 Paris AFP in French 1010 GMT 21 Jun 82

[Text] Dakar, 21 Jun (AFP) -- The 600-man Senegalese contingent forming part of the OAU peacekeeping force in Chad has begun returning to Senegal, informed sources in Dakar announced.

A group of 269 men from the contingent arrived in Dakar over the weekend on Air Afrique special flights, it was learned from the same sources. The rest of the Senegalese troops are expected back before the end of June.

The Senegalese Government made the decision to pull out its troops in the wake of the seizure of Ndjamena by Hissein Habre's troops in spite of Mr Habre's request for the prolongation of the mandate of the African force in Chad.

The Senegalese troops received logistic assistance from France in their mission in Chad.

PRESIDENT DIOUF RECEIVES LIBYAN DELEGATION

AB212154 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 21 Jun 82

[Excerpts] The head of state today received several prominent people, including a Libyan delegation led by Muhammad [name indistinct], secretary general of the people's committee, who brought a personal message from Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the revolution of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. Moustapha Niasse, minister of state for foreign affairs, was present at the audience.

TOGO

LIBYA'S AT-TURAYKI INVITES EYADEMA TO OAU SUMMIT

AB211417 Paris AFP in French 1157 GMT 21 Jun 82

[Text] Pya (northern Togo), 21 Jun (AFP) -- 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, Libyan secretary for foreign affairs, was received at Pya in northern Togo by President Gnassingbe Eyadema, to whom he delivered an invitation for the next OAU summit to take place in the Libyan capital in August.

In a statement to the press at the end of the meeting, the envoy of the leader of the Libyan revolution, Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, affirmed that President Eyadema assured him of Togo's "total support" for the Tripoli summit to be "a success," in order to avoid "a breakup of the OAU." In this regard, At-Turayki said Libya "counted very much on the massive participation of heads of state" at this summit.

Finally, Al-Turayki stressed that relations between Togo and Libya were "very good" and that his country "appreciates the Togolese president's role in the liberation of Africa and the consolidation of African unity."

ANGOLA

LUANDA REPORTS DOS SANTOS APPEAL FOR AID

AB211214 Luanda Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 21 Jun 82

[Text] MPLA-Labor Party President Jose Eduardo dos Santos has appealed to the international community for material aid to enable Angola to continue its efforts in the war to defend its territorial integrity. The Angolan head of state said his country urgently needs weapons, medical supplies and vehicles. The international community has shown good understanding of Angola's situation, however, this is hardly sufficient, Jose Eduardo dos Santos added.

The situation is still serious because, since last September, regular units of the South African Army have been occupying several parts of our territory in Cunene Province on the border with Namibia, President dos Santos explained to Cape Verde newsmen at a news conference in Luanda given by Cape Verde President Aristides Pereira.

On the Namibian problem, President dos Santos said the recent talks are a new phase in the process of negotiations and the Angolan Government considers them more flexible and realistic and, therefore, a basis for rapid progress in the negotiations if the South African authorities show good will.

PETROLEUM MINISTER RETURNS FROM NORWAY, SWEDEN

AB211222 Luanda Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 21 Jun 82

[Text] Petroleum and Energy Minister Pedro de Castro van Dunem, who has just returned home from a working visit to Norway and Sweden, described the outcome of his visit as positive. The Angolan minister announced on arrival in Luanda last Saturday that a high-level Norwegian official is expected in Luanda to discuss bilateral relations and the participation of oil companies. He also announced that a team of experts is expected in the country.

The Angolan petroleum and energy minister took the opportunity of his stopover in Italy and Portugal to confer with authorities on the progress of work on the Cambambe dam project and on the installation of a hydroelectric power station.

'ECONOMIC SABOTAGE' TRIAL OPENS IN CABINDA

AB181018 Luanda ANGOP in French 0915 GMT 18 Jun 82

[Text] Cabinda, 18 Jun (ANGOP) -- The military tribunal of the 2d political-military region of Cabinda yesterday began the trial of Manuel Pires Antonio Necas, (Captain Belmundo), 2d Lt Luis Rogerio Ucani, Eduardo Antonio and Jose Minhas, accused of economic sabotage. They are accused of illegally selling 26 tires, 3 bags of sugar, 3 cases of soap and 3 cases of cooking oil in the People's Republic of the Congo.

NAMIBIA

SWAPO RADIO REPORTS 'OPTIMISM' ON NAMIBIA TALKS

EA171222 Addis Ababa Voice of Namibia in English 1900 GMT 16 Jun 82

[SWAPO program]

[Text] According to reports reaching us, the six frontline states and the South-West African People's Organization, SWAPO of Namibia, are said to have accepted the western so-called contact group's proposal to revive stalled independence talks with Namibia.

The Tanzanian president, Comrade Julius Nyerere, chairman of the frontline states, had earlier told diplomats of the Western contact group that the six frontline states and SWAPO were unanimous in their attitude to the new proposals.

The presidents of Angola, Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos; Botswana, Comrade Quett Masire; Mozambique, Comrade Samora Machel; Tanzania, Comrade Julius Nyerere; Zambia, Dr Kenneth Kaunda; and Zimbabwe, Comrade Robert Mugabe; and the president of SWAPO, Comrade Sam Nujoma, met in Dar es Salaam yesterday to discuss new ideas brought by envoys of the contact group nations, the United States of America, Britain, France, West Germany and Canada. Diplomatic sources said that the envoy's were encouraged by Julius Nyerere's briefings and one African diplomat said there is a definite mood of optimism.

SOUTH AFRICA

METHODIST SYNOD CALLS FOR ALL-RACE MEETING

MB171031 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 17 Jun 82 p 5

[By Sophie Tema]

[Excerpts] The synod of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa has called for a national convention of all races to work out a system which would "restore basic human rights to all South Africans."

The synod, held at the Krugersdorp Methodist Church, unanimously accepted a resolution moved by the Rev Cecil Begbie, for a convention and said it viewed with concern the way in which the President's Council was diverting attention from the need for such a move.

The President's Council, it said, had not taken into consideration the majority of the black people of South Africa. Furthermore, "the Coloured and Indian members of the President's Council have not received a mandate from their communities".

The resolution has been referred to the forthcoming October conference of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa, to be held in Jonannesburg.

RSA RADIO COMMENTS ON LESOTHO LIBERATION ARMY

LD171838 Johannesburg International Service in English 1512 GMT 17 Jun 82

[Excerpt] Lesotho is a landlocked mountain kingdom totally surrounded by South Africa. It is ruled by King Moshoeshoe II and led by Prime Minister Chief Leabua Jonathan. Largely a peaceful country, it nevertheless has an antigovernment guerrilla army, the Lesotho Liberation Army, Radio RSA reports.

It may be the world's smallest and least known guerrilla movement, and the battlegrounds are in one of the smallest and poorest countries on earth, but there is nothing small about the determination of the Lesotho Liberation Army. We will continue our attacks until Prime Minister Jonathan agrees to UN-supervised elections, says the guerrillas' Commander in Chief Ntsu Mokhehle, whose troops' latest action was the ambush on Lesotho's agriculture minister, Chief Peete Peete, and four members of his family as they were driving to church. Chief Peete escaped unhurt, but two family members were seriously injured.

Mokhehle's army is the military wing of his Basuto Congress Party, which opposed Chief Jonathan's ruling Basotho National Party in the general election in 1970. From that moment the seeds of the guerrilla army were sown. Mokhehle's forces launched an armed insurrection in 1970 and in 1974 the Lesotho Liberation Army began claiming responsibility for a series of attacks on the government, military and police establishments, which have continued up to the ambush of Chief Peete's car last month.

Military sources in South Africa believe the Lesotho Liberation Army numbers between 500 and 1,000 men, now scattered in small groups in mountain camps in the north of this 30,300 sq km landlocked country. Lesotho is almost entirely dependent on South Africa for its revenue and trade. It receives a share of customs revenue and a great deal of money is remitted to Lesotho from Basutu working in the mines and on the farms of South Africa.

Ntsu Mokhehle, a graduate of South Africa's Fort Hare University and a contemporary of Zimbabwe's Prime Minister Robert Mugabe and the late Botswana President Sir Seretse Khana, strenuously denies South African backing. He cites the arrest in 1979 by South African police of 47 Lesotho Liberation Army guerrillas, 12 of whom were handed over to Lesotho's paramilitary forces in Maseru, the capital. Mokhehle says he wants to replace the present government with a multiparty democratic system along socialist lines. He emphasized that he has no intention of allowing the mountain kingdom to become Marxist. I suppose that is why I am not liked any more in Moscow, he said.

Chief Jonathan, on the other hand, seems to have switched ideological alingment in recent years. Ten years ago he was in the forefront of dialogue between South Africa and Black Africa. In the mid-70's he performed an about face and has opened up links with nine Eastern bloc states. Soviet military advisers are in Maseru and the government has concluded diplomatic agreements with the USSR, Cuba and Mozambique.

South Africa is undisturbed by this, but is certainly watching the actions of the hit-and-run guerrilla army with interest.